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Southeast Asia Report

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16 JANUARY 1987

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CANCELLATION OF NEWSPAPER BUSINESS LICENSES OPPOSED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 21 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] Parliamentary Commission I has advised the government that it hopes that the cancellation of newspaper business licenses (SIUPP), an action that has been taken against the afternoon daily SINAR HARAPAN, will not occur in the future. Reading a summation of the findings made by the commission in its hearing of the central executive committee of the Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI), Soebekti, the commission's deputy chairman, said, "It is hoped that what happened to SINAR HARAPAN will be the last such case." The hearing was held at the Parliament building yesterday.

Commission I also gave its attention to the regulation that deals with newspaper business licenses, namely, Regulation of the Minister of Information No 01/Per/Menpen/1984. The commission said that it hopes there will be an opportunity to jointly discuss the regulation again, especially as it relates to emerging and growing problems. The commission feels that article 33 of the regulation, which regulates the cancellation of newspaper business licenses, and article 4 of the basic press law are "inconsistent." Article 4 states that the national press is not subject to censorship and curbs.

The situation of SINAR HARAPAN was one of the subjects discussed by the commission. The newspaper's business license has been cancelled by Directive of the Minister of Information No 8/Ditjen PPG/K/1986 dated 9 October 1986.

More Open

Responding to a question from Ipi Asmasoebrata of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), Zulharmans, the general chairman of the PWI central executive committee, told the hearing that the PWI will try to see that the cancellation of a newspaper business license does not occur again. It will do so because, when viewed within a context larger than the legal aspects alone, cancellations do not result in clarification. "On the contrary, the confusion is compounded," he said.

He said that a cancellation involves first of all an appreciation of the functions of the government, the public and the press itself. "The PWI is constantly urging the government to engage in a more open form of communication, as this will give the press more opportunity to carry out its duties in a more responsible manner", he said.

Jakob Oetema, an advisor to the PWI central committee, shares the opinion of Ipik Asmasoebrata that it would have been better to summon the manager of SINAR HARAPAN to court than to cancel the newspaper's business license.

He noted that all representatives of the press who attended a PWI working conference in Bali several years ago favored the revocation of publishing permits (SIT) and their replacement with a regulation that would be more flexible both in content and spirit. "We have been somewhat alarmed by the experience of SINAR HARAPAN. This is not more flexible because the action, according to law, is final. Formerly, when there was a publishing permit (that was revoked) there were still possibilities, or the action could be called temporary," he said.

He called for action that will help guarantee the further development of the press and said that the subject of cancellations should be discussed again, especially within the framework of supporting the future growth of the press. "Objectively speaking, the law provides an opportunity for the cancellation of newspaper business licenses. Perhaps this is the problem," he said.

Subagyo Pr., who heads the education section of the PWI central committee and is the former chief editor of SINAR HARAPAN, declared that as part of the national press the newspaper placed the national interest above group interests and private interests. "There has never been the slightest intention of discrediting anyone, not the government, the nation or the state," he said.

He described the situation faced by SINAR HARAPAN as "very distressing." "We have not only lost our jobs, but even worse have lost the means of participating in the development process," he said.

Subagyo said that SINAR HARAPAN employs 1,231 persons in Jakarta and that they are in danger of being separated. The employees have 5,242 dependents. The newspaper also has 650 regional agents, about 6,000 paper carriers and some 6,000 sales agents. Including the employees in Jakarta, this is a total of about 20,000 people.

5458

CSO: 4213/25

PDI OFFICIAL REVEALS NOMINATION OF NU FIGURES

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 25 Oct 86 p 7

[Text] As part of their communal friendship movement many charismatic Nahdlatul Ulama [Muslim Scholars] (NU) figures from various parts of East Java have stated their willingness to spread Islamic principles to Muslim members of the Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI) in East Java.

Drs H. Marsoesi, chairman of the East Java PDI's Provincial Executive Board (DPD), revealed this in a recent conversation with MERDEKA held in his office. This is an indication of NU members' increasing freedom, resulting from the NU's Congress held in Situbondo two years ago, to support other sociopolitical parties and to keep their distance from the NU.

For the PDI itself, said Marsoesi, the present rapprochement is a breath of fresh air, inducing NU members to privately support the PDI.

"The PDI is now approaching NU figures in East Java and many NU figures are ready to approach the PDI," he said, though he was unwilling to name names of the NU figures who have been asked to attract the NU masses into the PDI in the upcoming general election.

"Basically there are many charismatic NU figures here in East Java whom we have asked to speak," said Marsoesi in an effort to persuade, when the names of K H Yusuf Hasjim, son of the founder of the largest Islamic organization and principal of the Tebuireng Muslim boarding school, was mentioned.

Marsoesi also admitted that the PDI's candidate for the DPR [Parliament] include NU figures.

"The NU figures whom we are putting up as our candidates for the DPR head the list of candidates--they are a sure thing--but you will have to wait for the publication of the candidates' list to find out who they are. NU figures are not just candidates for the DPR but also for the East Java DPRD [Provincial Parliament] and for level-II representative bodies in East Java," he added.

Double

Marsoesi said that by putting up a number of NU figures as candidates, the PDI hopes that many NU members will support it, even though many will remain PPP [United Development Party] or GOLKAR [Functional Groups Party] supporters.

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CSO: 4213/21

NU OFFICIAL DENIES REPORTS OF BOARDING SCHOOLS JOINING GOLKAR

Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian 4 Nov 86 p 2

[Text] K.H. Hasjim Latief, the chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) regional executive committee for East Java, has again affirmed that the NU does not pursue a random course. He said that the NU creed of 1926 leads NU members along the course of culture and education, and that the NU will not return to the course of practical politics.

Speaking to a SURABAYA POST reporter yesterday afternoon, Hasjim said that the perception that a number of Muslim boarding schools in East Java have joined Golkar is erroneous. While admitting that the minister of social affairs and minister of information were welcomed by Golkar cheers from students and the public when they visited the Zainul Hasan boarding school in Genggong, Probolinggo, he said that this does not mean that the school is committed to seeking the patronage of Golkar. "It just may be that the leaders or students of the school, as individuals, will place their aspirations in Golkar in the 1987 general election, but the school itself is part of the NU and its system of Islamic education is for the Sunni community," he said.

Only A Means To An End

Hasjim Latief noted that when K.H. Achmad Siddiq, the general chairman of the NU's canon law council, delivered his most recent decision at the Ploso boarding school in Kediri some time ago, he stated that if the NU had once followed the course of practical politics it did so only as a means to an end, and that the NU, in manifesting its identity as a congregation of the faithful, had as its primary goal the continued development and protection of Islamic boarding schools, education, social relationships and missionary work.

Hasjim said that Achmad Siddiq explained that the NU also wants to see the spread of religious teachings and high moral values in this Pancasila society, and that the NU accepts the Pancasila without hesitation because this philosophy fully supports the growth of religion.

In that part of his decision which dealt with the 1987 general election, Achmad Siddiq said that individual members of the NU can evaluate the programs and candidates of the political groups that are participating in the election and make their own choices, and that the NU will continue in its position of having no ties with any of these political groups.

Expanded Creed

Hasjim Latief said that no one should misinterpret the NU's position of not wanting to be known as an organization that leans toward Golkar. "We are not rejecting Golkar but are simply observing the resolution that was passed by the NU congress and that calls for adherence to the pure creed." He noted that recently an "expanded creed" has appeared and is beginning to draw the NU toward one of the political groups.

According to reports, the action taken by K.H. Hasan Syaifurrizal in joining Golkar was based on his personal decision. Hasan Syaifurrizal is headmaster of the Zainul Hasan boarding school.

H.M. Syukrie Adenan, the head of the Central Islamic Education Institute (Lembaga Pendidikan Islamiyah Pusat), likens Hasan Syaifurrizal's action to the action taken by K.H. Mustain Ramly, the headmaster of the Darul Ulum boarding school in Jombang, in joining Golkar prior to the 1977 general election. Syukrie hopes that the school in Genggong will enjoy the same experience as the Darul Ulum school, which has improved both its facilities and its educational methods and resources.

Syukrie confirmed that the push toward Golkar was strengthened recently by the issuance of personal statements by several NU leaders. For example, H. Saiful Mujab sent yellow pamphlets and green pamphlets to various government agencies and Muslim boarding schools. The pamphlets urged NU members from Sabang to Merauke to join Golkar.

Uncertain

When another NU leader was asked about the situation he responded frankly by saying that NU members are still uncertain. "We are just looking at the 1987 general election, and I hope there will be someone who will join us in struggling for the NU program," he said.

The NU program calls for the political groups participating in the 1987 election to wage a determined struggle to implement the principles of the Pancasila, in that the Pancasila is the sole foundation of the state and guarantees the existence of religious life, high moral standards, a greater degree of justice and prosperity in the social and economic life of the people, job opportunities, and a spirit of justice that is tangible and pervasive. The candidate preferred by the NU is the candidate who is honest with God, with the people and with his own conscience, and whose career is characterized by genuine, integrative, aspirational and productive struggle and dedication.

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CSO: 4213/25

GENERAL CALLS ON ULAMAS TO TEACH MORAL VALUES

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 17 Nov 86 pp 1, 12

[Text] General L.B. Murdani, the commander of the armed forces, has stated that Muslim boarding schools, as institutions that provide religious education and training in skills, are becoming increasingly important in the midst of expanding national development and the progress of human civilization. Development and the progress of civilization have brought us into contact with scientific and technological advances and the process of modernization, with all of their effects, he said.

The general made these statements yesterday afternoon at the Salafiyah boarding school in Situbondo during a goodwill meeting with ulamas and school officials from throughout East Java.

General Murdani said that the positive effects of science, technology and the modernization process are obvious: they increase the well-being of society and provide it with conveniences. But there are also negative effects of no small significance. These include the existence of new values in society, values that can lead to the deterioration of society if not controlled.

"We do not desire to see this deterioration take place in our society. But we do want advanced science and technology and the modernization process to continue to be controlled by the cultural values of the Pancasila, so our nation can be provided with material and spiritual well-being," he said.

The general said that herein lies the importance of religious leaders and ulamas in general, and of Muslim boarding schools in particular. Since changes in social values always are connected with man's ethical, attitudinal and moral values, and since man is both the subject and the object of national development, then ethical, attitudinal and moral crises will delay and can even defeat the development process. It is through religious education and guidance together with Pancasila morality that a society which is strongly resilient in its attitudinal, moral and ethical values can be achieved, he said.

Participation of Ulamas

General Murdani appealed to the hundreds of ulamas who crowded into the Salafiyah school to dedicate themselves to increasing their participation in the development process, concentrating on the education and guidance of the

Muslim communities in their respective localities. He said that by so doing the ulamas and other educators at the very least would be directly contributing their abilities to the mental and spiritual development of the nation.

"We must bear in mind that a developing nation is a nation that is full of of challenges and concerns. Development cannot possibly be carried out by a nation that does not have the motivation and spirit to move forward. Nor is it possible for development to be carried out well in an environment that is not orderly and secure, or in an environment where discipline is not recognized." The general, calling several times for the adoption of a spirit of simplicity, also said: "Basing on this concept the armed forces are convinced that the promotion of public discipline and national discipline will be able to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of national development both now and in the future."

General Murdani said that the efforts made by ulamas in educational institutions and elsewhere to influence man's ethical, attitudinal and moral values will greatly support the creation of public discipline. He called on them to make the Muslim boarding schools and other Muslim educational institutions into places for forging the ethical, attitudinal and moral values of the Muslim community in Indonesia, saying that this would be one manifestation of the participation of Muslim leaders in national development under the Pancasila and 1945 Constitution.

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CSO: 4213/25

MUHAMMADIYAH BUILDINGS NOT FOR CAMPAIGNING

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 25 Oct 86 p 9

[Text] Muhammadiyah meeting halls and school buildings will be closed to campaign activities during the 1987 general election. K H A. R. Fakhruddin, general chairman of Muhammadiyah's PP [Executive Committee], affirmed this in response to questions from KOMPAS Tuesday afternoon [21 October].

He said that this decision had been disseminated to the leaders of all of Muhammadiyah's branch offices all over Indonesia. "Everybody is aware of the decision," said Fakhruddin. He mentioned that this applies to the political parties and to GOLKAR [Functional Groups Party].

No Longer Attracted

According to the latest figures, Muhammadiyah has 12,000 lots on which there are mosques, meeting halls, fields, schools from kindergartens to universities and other buildings. Those are the buildings not to be used for campaigning. As stated by Fakhruddin, the main reason is that Muhammadiyah is not attracted to any one political party. To avoid feelings of envy it was decided that the three parties competing in the general elections will not be allowed to use Muhammadiyah buildings for campaigning.

KOMPAS asked, "What about preliminary meetings?" The answer was--not allowed, nothing smelling of politics, he said again and again. This is in line with the policy which Muhammadiyah has maintained since 1971 to be active only in social and proselytizing movements and to abandon practical politics.

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CSO:4213/21

LEGAL AID INSTITUTE NOT TO DISCUSS POLITICS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 25 Oct 86 p 8

[Text] Minister of Justice Ismail Saleh, SH [Master of Laws], has asked the Legal Aid Institute not to discuss politics in its national working meeting, which will be held on 27 and 28 October in Kaliurang, Yogyakarta.

This request was presented to the organization's executive committee in Yogyakarta yesterday morning along with permission from Police Headquarters to hold that meeting. Marhaban Zainun, SH, head of the executive committee, said, "We will obey the minister's request; in fact, political issues are not on the meeting's agenda."

The working meeting will discuss only the evaluation of the Institute's development and organization, identification of its internal and external problems, its stabilization and strategies for legal aid activities, its stabilization of basic patterns of structural legal aid and its development of mass participation for support of legal aid activities. Taking part in the meeting will be about 90 people, consisting of representatives from 13 branch offices in Indonesia as well as from Legal Aid Institute posts in Medan, Palembang, Jakarta and Yogyakarta, plus a board of trustees and working groups.

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CSO:4213/21

YOUNG LAWYERS ON LEGAL AID INSTITUTE

Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 29 Oct 86 pp 1,

[Text] Like it or not, the increasing size of the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) requires bureaucratic machinery to regulate its activities. If, however, the bureaucracy is clumsy, it can destroy idealism and fighting spirit. This statement was made by Minang Warman, SH [Master of Laws], an LBH activist from its beginnings.

Meanwhile, Henry Yosodiningrat, SH, a young lawyer who handles many pro bono cases, thinks that it is time for donors and the government to extend a helping hand to the LBH, so that it can in the future carry out its mission in a better and smoother way.

These two lawyers, who now have their own offices, were asked by PELITA to comment on the progress made by the LBH, founded 16 years ago yesterday.

Idealism

Minang Warman said that from the beginning, even from the time that the idea of forming the LBH was suggested by Adnan Buyung Nasution at a congress of the Indonesian Advocates Union (PERADIN), the LBH's main goal and mission has been to provide legal aid and to take part in upholding the law, justice and truth.

"This can only be carried out if the people in the LBH have courage and idealism," he said. This young lawyer, who is also active in a karate organization (FORKI--the Indonesian Karate-do Federation), expressed this opinion on idealism in connection with the increasing number of young people in the LBH.

The LBH, he added, is not just a place to work. It is also something to dedicate oneself to. Therefore, he hopes that the young lawyers now working for the LBH will not forget that idealism, "since that was the main basis for founding the LBH."

In response to a question, Minang said that bureaucracy really is needed so that the LBH's steps forward can be made more efficient and effective. The LBH is getting bigger. So far there are 13 LBHs all over Indonesia under the aegis of the Indonesian Legal Aid Societies Institute (YLBHI).

"However, if the bureaucracy is run rigidly, it will create strata, which in turn can destroy idealism and fighting spirit," he said, adding, "In that way, the goals of the LBH will be difficult to achieve fully."

Minang Warman believes that just because there is the impression that a clique exists within the LBH (especially that the top leadership has been allowed to open their own practices), certain LBH directors should not be accused of losing their idealism.

The problem is whether everybody is working in the open. If there exists a strong idealistic base, there is certainly no reason not to be open. In that way the impression mentioned above can be eradicated. Idealism has not been destroyed just because top leaders have opened their own offices. "Even so, it has to be regulated more firmly," said Minang.

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CSO:4213/21

SELF-MOTIVATED TRANSMIGRANTS SWELL LAMPUNG POPULATION

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Nov 86 p 2

[Text] With only a limited amount of funds available at the present time, the government is promoting a program for spontaneous transmigrants. This is a program for persons who come to transmigration sites of their own volition and at their own expense. Unfortunately, the program is not running smoothly because the regional governments are not in possession of specific data on the actual number of spontaneous transmigrants.

Transmigration Minister Martono made these comments to reporters yesterday after opening the National Leadership Conference of Kosgoro (Union of Cooperatives). The conference is being held in Jakarta in conjunction with the celebration of the organization's 29th anniversary.

Martono told newsmen that there are many spontaneous transmigrants and that they include Madurese and Buginese, who emigrate to Kalimantan, and Javanese, who are invading Lampung.

He said that it had been hoped that the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) could provide data on spontaneous transmigrants, as the data are needed for planning purposes. However that organization, like the regional governments, does not yet have the needed data. By way of example, he said that the number of spontaneous transmigrants in Lampung alone is not known. "I have been asking the regional government to register these transmigrants for a long time," he added.

Lampung An Emigration Area

Martono mentioned this matter in connection with the Lampung regional government's plan to establish Lampung as an emigration area for transmigrants. Lampung is known as an immigration area for transmigrants but its status is changing to that of an emigration area because of overpopulation.

The minister said that Lampung, although overpopulated, is a target area for spontaneous transmigrants from Java because it is closer than other transmigration sites. "The regional government's plan to establish Lampung as an emigration area for transmigrants has not yet been confirmed in a ministerial-directive," he added.

Martono said that the clearing of forested land, which is causing floods in Lampung, is motivated by the poverty of the Indonesian people. The transmigrants, most of whom are farmers, have no land and therefore clear off the forest cover in mountainous areas. "It is the same as in Java. These spontaneous transmigrants are land-hungry farmers," he said.

Spontaneous transmigrants that are regulated by the government do not cause a problem because they can own land, the land being provided by the government. It is the spontaneous transmigrants who come wholly by choice and at their own expense and who are not regulated by the government that cause problems by clearing off the forested land, he said.

The minister said that at the present time a flow of spontaneous transmigrants is spilling into Lampung from Java. Lampung is the oldest transmigration area (established in the 1930s) and the early transmigrants already have grandchildren. Thus, the problem encountered in Java, the problem of farmers having no more land because they have divided it among their descendants, is repeated in Lampung. "It is because of this problem that the inheritance law that has been proposed by the HKTI (Indonesian Farmers Fraternal Association), a law that can limit the subdivision of land into small plots, should be studied by Parliament," he said.

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CSO: 4213/25

BRIEFS

'CHRISTIANIZATION MOVEMENT' DOES NOT EXIST--Maj Gen Saiful Sulun, the commander of Military Region V, has cautioned Muslim missionaries against being taken in by talk about a so-called Christianization movement, because no such movement exists. The general spoke at an upgrading course for Muslim preachers and missionaries in East Java at the Haji Sukolilo Hall this afternoon. "It is quite proper to have Christian leaders who have been selected on the basis of their ability," he said, noting that the commanders of several military districts in East Java are not Muslims but are well liked by the people. "General L. B. Murdani, the commander of the armed forces, has never made an issue of this matter. He concentrates on how to make the armed forces better and how to win the hearts of the people," he said. Maj Gen Saiful likened the preachers to a forward post that is used to move the muslim community in the direction of progress. He said they should present their teachings in the right way and not mislead people. "The success we have achieved is due to the blessings of God. National stability is required for progress in development, and therefore I ask for your help in maintaining stability and tranquility in all sectors," he said. He said that this nation, based on the Pancasila, has succeeded in creating a climate in which different religious groups peacefully coexist. He also mentioned some other nations where this cannot be done. "The Pancasila proves that good and cordial relations can be established even though our nation is made up of many ethnic and religious groups," he said. [Text] [Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian 13 Nov 86 p 2] 5458

POLITICAL PARTY CONFLICT--General Yoga Sugama, retired, the head of the National Intelligence Coordination Agency (BAKIN), has said that the protracted conflicts within political parties can create confusion and apathy and lead to the formation of another Blank Ballot Group [Golongan Putih, voters who did not mark their ballots to protest election procedures], all of which is undesirable. Speaking yesterday at a hearing before Parliamentary Commission I, the BAKIN chief said that it was necessary to quickly and completely overcome the conflicts in political parties. This will create a stable climate of unity and cohesiveness prior to the 1987 general election, he said. He cautioned that the emergence of a Blank Ballot Group mindset will detract from the significance of the Pancasila Democratic Celebration. The BAKIN chief also said that the domestic security situation can be kept under good control prior to the 1987 general election, and that national resilience appears to be strong overall. [Text] [Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 19 Nov 86 p 12] 5458

FOREIGN AID RATIO CHANGES--Eng Suyono Sosrodarsono, the minister of public works, dedicated several public works projects Tuesday [11 Nov] in a ceremony held on the veranda of the Madiun kabupaten government building. The projects include the Ponorogo-Blitar road, the Wibangan dam, the Ngluweng dam, the Ngebel reservoir and a ground water development project. Following the ceremony the minister told a KOMPAS reporter that in order to derive greater benefit from the foreign aid funds used for foreign aid projects in the public works sector, changes have been made in the dollar (aid funds) to rupiah (domestic funds) ratios that are being used. These ratios are 80:20, 70:30 and the standard 60:40 ratio. The minister said that the ratios are determined by the type and priority of projects, however he was not prepared to elaborate on the priority classifications that have been assigned to projects. "It is clear that small projects are being continued and that large projects are being rescheduled," he said. [Text] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 13 Nov 86 p 1] 5458

TRANSMIGRATION FIGURES NOTED--A total of 46,945 transmigrant families have been placed in East Kalimantan province to date. This figure includes 4,733 families placed before the 5-year plans began, 2,812 families placed during Pelita I (First 5-Year Plan), 4,000 families during Pelita II and 15,036 families during Pelita III. And, as of the beginning of November 1986, a total of 20,364 families with 52,538 family members have been placed in East Kalimantan during Pelita IV. According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Office of the Department of Transmigration, 16,263 families with 67,644 family members remain under the management of the department. These families are located in 43 transmigrant settlement units at 18 sites in 6 kabupaten and municipalities. Most of the transmigrants in East Kalimantan raise rice, corn, peanuts, mung beans, soybeans, cassava, sweet potatoes and other vegetables. They also raise perennial crops, such as coconuts, coffee and cloves, along with citrus fruits, jackfruit, cempedak, papaya, rambutan, bananas, durian, pineapples, mangos and avocados. Facilities built for the transmigrants include 6 public health centers and 55 auxiliary health centers. These are staffed by 7 physicians and 49 paramedics. There are also 315 primary schools with 396 teachers and 39 middle schools with 124 teachers. There are 12,970 primary school students and 1,471 middle school students in the transmigrant settlements. [Text] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 19 Nov 86 p 3] 5458/12223

UPCOMING EXECUTIONS OF COMMUNISTS PROTESTED--Paris, 24 Dec (AFP)--Indonesian authorities are planning the Christmas Day execution of 15 "communist militants and progressives," senior French Communist deputies said here Wednesday. The French Parliament and European Parliament deputies, Andre Lajoinie, Helene, Luc and Rene Piquet, have sent a telegramme to Michel Blum, president of the International Human Rights Federation asking him to intervene to stop the executions. "We ask you to do everything to stop these new crimes being committed, seriously ridiculing human rights," they said, adding: "We ask you to undertake all steps to help save the lives of these 15 men." In October, the Indonesian Government announced the execution by firing squad of nine former leaders of the banned Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), which sparked international protests. On 22 October, diplomatic sources

said four more PKI officials had had death sentences commuted to life jail terms. The PKI has been banned in Indonesia since a 1965 attempted coup in which the PKI was accused of taking part. There are still about 22 or 23 communist officials in jail in Indonesia. [Text] [Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 24 Dec 86 AU] /12858

IMPORT CONCESSIONS TO INDUSTRIES--The Indonesian Government has provided a concession in form of free import trade arrangement system for three industries in Indonesia, namely P.T. IPTN [the national aircraft industry], P.T. Pindad [the military equipment industry]--both located in Bandung, West Java--and the other P.T. Pal [the national ship industry] in Surabaya, East Java. The decision was taken by President Suharto in a meeting with several ministers in Jakarta yesterday. The decision was based on considerations that the production of the three industries includes nonoil commodities [words indistinct] by sophisticated technology. [Text] [Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Dec 86 BK] /12858

CSO: 4200/235

PASASON ON SECRET U.S. ARMS DEAL WITH IRAN

BK050517 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 3 Dec 86

[2 December PASASON commentary: "Reagan's Influence Has Declined With Each Passing Day"]

[Text] The United States is plunging into a profound political crisis while the Reagan administration's role is declining as a result of Washington's confusing foreign policy regarding East-West relations and its interference in the Iraq-Iran war. Eighty-two percent of the American people have said that their President is a liar. Only 1 percent believed the deceitful White House propaganda and accusations made at the Reykjavik meeting between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan. This has enabled hundreds of millions of Americans to see clearly the confusing nature of Washington's foreign policy and to weigh its words against its actual deeds.

The U.S. President and his henchmen have been doing everything possible to dilute the agreements reached at the Reykjavik meeting. These agreements have not yet been implemented because of the U.S. refusal to abandon the Star Wars program. For example, in his recent speech at the University of Chicago, the U.S. secretary of state did not mention any method of eliminating long range missiles completely, although everyone knows well that the main topic of the Reykjavik meeting was ways to eliminate all kinds of offensive strategic weapons. On the contrary, he is seeking every possible means to tarnish the success of the meeting. Moreover, he has gone back on his word in his Chicago statement, proposing that some missiles with nuclear warheads must be eliminated when he himself said at the conclusion of the Reykjavik meeting on 12 October 1986 that in the next 10 years all offensive strategic weapons will be completely eliminated. This statement has been recorded on tape and in the minutes of the Reykjavik summit.

Moreover, the Reagan administration has discarded the SALT II agreement signed by the United States and the Soviet Union. This agreement was handed over to the U.S. delegation at the recent Geneva talks.

While the Soviet Union's proposals are appropriate to the Reykjavik atmosphere, U.S. proposals run counter to it. The U.S. representative only rejected the

review of various proposals banning the installation of weapons in space, while seeking every way possible to obstruct efforts to advance toward eliminating various strategic weapons. In exposing Reagan's dark spot, the mass media said that Reagan had moved one step ahead in Reykjavik while moving one step backward in the sphere of disarmament.

U.S. public opinion has grown to distrust the U.S. Government with each passing day since Reagan secretly sent weapons to Iran. This was exposed by Washington newspapers, which reported that it was Reagan himself who signed a special instruction on 17 January 1986 approving CIA interference in the Iraq-Iran war to take advantage of the situation to serve certain interests and obtain income. Sources close to the Pentagon disclosed that the U.S. rapid deployment force had been instructed to stand ready to intervene when the situation is favorable to defend the so-called vital interests of the United States in the region. AFP said that Reagan's action has caused tension between the Congress and the White House.

A regular meeting of the legal commission [khana kammathikan kotmai] of the Democratic Party held in November passed a resolution opposing the Reagan administration's dangerous policy. This resolution was submitted to the U.S. Congress, where a congressman said that President Reagan had violated the law destroying the trust of various friendly countries and U.S. allies and violated his promise to the American people during the previous presidential campaign. The mass media said that Reagan and his henchmen are seeking every way possible to get out of the serious crisis, unprecedented in his two presidential terms, by trying to divert public criticism and resolve contradictions within the White House. White house news sources disclosed that important sectors might have to be sacrificed in Reagan's murky political game. Nevertheless, many political observers in Washington said that the removal of some sectors in the White House will not close the case but will open the scene for the new confusions that President Reagan will have to face in the 2 final years of his term.

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CSO: 4206/39

SISOMPHON LOVANSAI GRANTS INTERVIEW TO TASS

BK290520 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 15 Dec 86

[12 December interview by Sisomphon Lovansai, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and acting president of the SPC, granted to (Viktor Khauztov), TASS representative in Laos--place not specified; read by announcer]

[Text] We attach special importance to and highly value the appeal of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in appropriately evaluating the situation with regard to the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting at Reykjavik, which was one of the many current great political events in the international political life and in the struggle to oppose the arms race, halt the production of nuclear weapons, and completely destroy nuclear weapons so as to do away with the military threats against mankind.

The Soviet stand at the Reykjavik summit was sincere and open. It was formulated on the basis of the principles of equality and common security by taking into account the overall interests of the two countries and those of the allies of both sides and all countries in the world. All the proposals advanced by the Soviet Union at Reykjavik, such as those on strategic offensive weapons, intermediate range missiles, and the implementation of the treaty on the antiballistic missiles defense system and the prohibition on nuclear arms tests, were characterized with a sense of boldness and determination and called for efforts to promote the cause of arms reduction so as to achieve the complete destruction of all nuclear weapons by the end of this century. If all the Soviet proposals are accepted for implementation, mankind will enter into a new era--the nuclear-free era.

Nevertheless, due to the lack of good intention on the U.S. side, the two sides failed to reach agreement on the antiballistic missiles defense system and the prohibition of nuclear arms tests. The U.S. side argued that it has all the potentials to carry out any experiments on the SDI program--not only in the laboratories, but also in space. This clearly shows that the U.S. Administration is very confident in its technological advancement and intends to achieve the militarily superior position over the Soviet Union through its Star Wars program to militarize space, thereby endlessly threatening the security of mankind.

However, the Reykjavik summit is somewhat useful to a certain extent for it scored a great achievement in drawing some rich experience. The meeting prepared possible steps which may lead to better realistic progress in the future. The Soviet proposals advanced by the Soviet Union at Reykjavik constituted a historical opportunity for mankind to resolve the fundamental issue of war and peace. Therefore, it is necessary for the world people to do everything to exploit this opportunity for safeguarding the fundamental interests of all nations and mankind.

At present, the entire people are joyously translating into reality the resolutions adopted at the Fourth LPRP Congress. They have fully endorsed and realized the foreign policy of the LPDR, which was stressed by LPRP Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane at the fourth party congress and which is always aimed at opposing the arms race and supporting the struggle for peace, stability, and cooperation among the countries in this region and throughout the world.

Fully realizing the significance and need for the defense of peace which has been increasingly threatened by the danger of a nuclear war--a war, if it actually occurs, which will wipe out the rich civilization of mankind and a great many people in the world--the SPC and the Lao people of all tribes, like all other peace-loving people throughout the world, always support the foreign policy of peace pursued by the USSR which has outlined constructive, realistic, and reasonable initiatives for each period to liberate the world people from the danger of a nuclear war and to attain lasting true peace, civilization, progress, and prosperity to mankind.

On behalf of the SPC and the Lao people of all tribes, we pledge to do everything to positively contribute to promoting peace and opposing war. We fully support the appeal of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to all the parliaments and people throughout the world and all the proposals advanced by the USSR at Reykjavik, as well as the stand of the Soviet Government, in demanding that the U.S. side fulfill its obligations by refraining from violating the SALT-I and SALT-II treaties. If these proposals are expeditiously realized, mutual trust between the two sides will be created so that the world's crucial issues can be positively resolved and that stability, security, and peaceful coexistence can be ensured for all countries regardless of the differences in their political systems. On this occasion, we call on all the parliaments and people of all countries in the world to work together and to actively coordinate with one another to demand that the U.S. Administration adopt the same realistic attitude as the one by the USSR.

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CSO: 4206/40

MOUNTAIN AREA UNIT OPERATION CRITICIZED

Vientiane KONGTHAP PASASON LAO in Lao 23 Oct 86 pp 2, 4

[Article by K. Khounbousai: "The 12-month Goal of the Mountain Area Development Company"]

[Text] A meeting to summarize the experience of the Mountain Area Development Company [MADC] for 1985 and the first 6 months of 1986 clearly indicated in detail how it has carried out its work in each period and in each aspect. It also stated what had been achieved and what still remained unsolved and unfinished.

In order to continue to implement and to succeed in the company's plan set by the party, the government and the National Defense Ministry in 1986 for the MADC, the meeting accepted the plan to be carried out in their own units with the following expected figures for various aspects of the work: improve, organize and continue to carry out the new management principle correctly with the contents and orders of the party, the government and the National Defense Ministry in assigning command cadres to each unit, and divide up the technical cadres among various subjects properly and correctly for things to be done in a timely manner.

The plans for the last 6 months of 1986 and the first 6 months of 1987 set out in detail the tree conservation, cutting and growing for different units throughout the company as follows. They were to grow a total of 2,700 assorted industrial trees, take care of young plants throughout the area under the company's responsibility, and send forestry cadres and technicians to inspect and mark the trees targeted for cutting. In particular, the units under the company must grow 2,500-3,500 trees and continue to expand growing cardamon, castor beans and fruits for producing oil on 8-10 hectares. The business trade section of the company must continue to organize stores for distributing and exchanging goods with the working people in different places according to suitable conditions of the localities for more effective purchasing and exchanging of forest and ricefield products with the people. It must continue to mobilize the people to participate in developing the existing forests and to participate in further reforestation in empty areas, and promote their right of collective mastery so that they and the administrative committee will join together in protecting the valuable forests and raw materials.

In constructing the people's base we must continue to improve and upgrade the quality of the people's administrative power. Where necessary the company must build a hospital and a school for the people's children, and must build irrigation and clear more cultivation areas for highland farmers. This will gradually decrease the slash-and-burn practice of the people in the mountainous areas. The company must work with the people on expanding animal husbandry, e.g., buffalo, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. Veterinarian cadres must give injections regularly for disease prevention. The company will set up a rice mill wherever it is suitable for serving the people. In the next 12 months it will continue to construct and clear roads to other areas if it is possible in order to better facilitate the transportation and distribution of goods between the government and the people. It will also continue propagandizing to encourage more private farmers to join in collective production. In order to succeed in the plan for the last 6 months of 1986 and the first 6 months of 1987 the important factor is the creativity of the cadres in each unit. In general the workers and government employees must be in full agreement with their leaders in carrying out the task in each period with enthusiasm to be fit for the trust of the higher echelons as an important source for the economy and national defense.

9884/9190

CSO: 4206/34

CHAMPASSAK LOCAL FORCES' MISSION, COMPOSITION DESCRIBED

Vientiane KONGTHAP PASASON LAO in Lao 30 Oct 86 p 2

[Article by K. Khounibousai: "The Regional Force of Pathoumphon District in Champassak Province"]

[Excerpts] Pathoumphon is a district that has accelerated the buildup of its guerrilla and self-defense force, which is an essential and urgent task for bringing peace to the people's production base throughout the district. In terms of actual work the district administrative committee and the commander of the district regional forces have unanimously increased the guidance of the party and cadres of all levels urgently and on a regular basis. First, the district military headquarters has called in the guerrilla unit commanders in all the cantons throughout the district to obtain a plan to work and to improve their forces on a regular basis every 3 and 6 months, and informed them of the urgent need for all the guerrilla units to continue to heighten their responsibility in the security work for the production bases. The district military headquarters sent cadres down to the grassroots to improve and organize the existing guerrilla forces by making them into guerrilla companies, platoons and fighting groups and to improve and set up regular guerrilla forces for agricultural coop units and the production forces of the people throughout under the guidance and training of the local administrative committee of each level. In particular, the [regional force] must be under the guidance of the local party chapter in every aspect. According to the plan for the last 6 months of 1986, it is important to promote party leadership roles in the ranks of the guerrilla forces districtwide. Throughout the district there are 17 guerrilla units and 12 platoons that must study at least one set of political documents on the average, and continue military training in two basic subjects for the [regional force]. They must also consider more training for permanently settled guerrilla cadres. There are now 375 comrades and 396 good working cadres. The plan for the last 6 months of 1986 is for 450 guerrillas to be trained throughout the district. In the first 6 months of 1986 there were 6 strong guerrilla companies and 12 outstanding platoons. The Phonthong guerrilla force also took part in training two model cantons and 15 model villages in security work, which increased the percentage of this work throughout the district to a satisfactory level.

We can conclude that the guerrilla unit in Pathoumphon District is now efficient enough to check and follow in a timely manner the movement of those who incite and [attempt to dismantle] the base. The guerrillas have a true work system. Each day no company is without a sergeant on guard. Every month the company commanders summarize and report on the general situation to the district military headquarters, and receive the plan to be carried out in the next period. This is being done on a regular basis. Every month, each platoon and each company shares their experience. This means that the mobile guerrilla unit, the regular guerrilla unit and the self-defense force of Pathoumphon District have become a trustworthy public security force in their district. In the future this force will continue to steadily improve and expand their achievements and experiences in order to effectively carry out various work with the people and with the local administrative committees throughout their district.

9884/9190

CSO: 4206/34

VIENTIANE DISTRICT MILITARY OPERATIONS DESCRIBED

Vientiane KONGTHAP PASASON LAO in Lao 30 Oct 86 p 2

[Article by S. Vongphouthon: "The Sisattanak District Guerrilla Unit Makes Steady Progress"]

[Excerpt] In defending and constructing the new regime over the past 10 years under the leadership of the party, the Sisattanak Guerrilla Militia was set up and has grown steadily in quality and quantity. It has succeeded in providing security in its locality, and was once praised by the higher echelons as a "strong model guerrilla militia unit."

The comrade district military commander told us that because of its growth from quantity to quality, the Sisattanak District guerrilla militia has gradually calmed the locality down in the evolution of national defense and construction. The enemies' underground spies who hid in the people's base were completely wiped out. This is because, along with the attention given to constructing and improving the military and paramilitary forces in the bases, the district administrative committee in constructing the political grassroots has resolutely mobilized the people of all levels to absorb the policies of the party and the government, and particularly the policy on national defense and security for the people. The district administrative committee has put all of its effort into the base in order to strike a heavy blow at the counter-revolutionaries. The profound understanding by the base has a direct effect on the enemies' underground forces. Those who had hidden themselves were exposed and made helpless, and they surrendered to the authorities. This confirms the people's true awakening to collective ownership. The duty of national defense and security has become closely related to their daily routine. Their report to the administrative committee on those who came to stay and those who left has so consciously become the responsibility of everyone that it has become a habit for them. Therefore, the administrative committee is always aware of all that has happened in detail and in a timely manner, and those who created unrest could not escape punishment. Thus, undesirable events have gradually been eliminated.

Although the defense work in this locality is efficient and strong, the satisfaction with the district military command and administrative

committees will not make them careless. On the contrary, it makes them focus on the wealth of experience and increase the training and strengthening of the force uncompromisingly. Each year the administrative committee opens two sessions for training the guerrillas on a regular basis, emphasizing political ideology, social classes, revolutionary morale and army regulations, and military training and review sessions later to gradually continue upgrading military tactics. With regard to political study, in addition to this particular course the guerrillas also study various documents and resolutions of the party and government along with the cadres in work sections around the district, and sometimes the guerrillas also study in a course that is open to the population base.

Another interesting aspect is the cooperation and the work system among the three military forces, the district military, the police and the guerrilla force. Whenever they encounter any situation they will unanimously follow the orders of only one leader to solve the problem quickly and in a timely manner. After each week they summarize, check and learn their lessons from each other on a regular basis. They also work together to plan their tasks for the following week. Their reports every month, 6 months and year have been efficient and prompt.

9884/9190
CSO: 4206/34

PROVINCIAL SECURITY PROBLEMS POINTED OUT

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 20 Nov 86 pp 20, 21

[Article by Phaithalong: "Steady Growth in National Defense and Security"]

[Excerpt] By firmly grasping the policies on national defense and security, the masses, parties, military forces, public security forces and the people have grown to an important step and have become the People's Army and the Public Security Service [PSS]. This consists of all the armies and technical forces. By resolutely working together with the related forces, the armies and our people fought against the many aspects of the war of the enemies effectively and punished those who provoked, encroached upon, and violated the sovereignty and integrity of our country, including provocations by international and regional power forces.

In implementing the policies of the Party Central Committee on converting to the grassroots, the military forces have worked in cooperation with different government sections in turning to the localities using the three directions for attacking the enemies, constructing and improving the dictatorship of the proletariat at the grassroots, and also helping the people to promote production, and they took part in bringing peace and normalcy to many places where there was previously confusion. This was done by carrying out all-round military relations with the army and the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples. The military forces have worked in cooperation with the USSR, the army and our people, giving us a strong force to protect the nation which has gradually been becoming stronger, and to build up the base of national defense and the economy, and to upgrade our ability to prepare for fighting to protect our nation.

At the same time, we have great forces just as they are right now consisting of tens of thousands of regular forces in each locality, and guerrilla units and self-defense forces in the grassroots. Our entire army is united in its determination and actions, has always a revolutionary consciousness and clear guidelines for friends and foes, learns and understands the policies of the party, trains and upgrades its fighting ability and its work on a regular basis, and is ready to succeed in all the duties assigned by the party and the nation.

In general, all the provinces are doing well in turning to the grassroots. Some of them, e.g., Champassak, Phong Saly and Oudomsai, are at the front facing the enemies. However, because they had firm [ideas] on grassroots construction early and have worked firmly on various aspects, such as political mobilization, improving the areas, national defense and security, economic construction, cultural expansion, and raising the standard of living for the people. As a result, they have been able to unite multiethnic groups and to bring happiness and confidence and a spirit of ownership to the grassroots. They are also able to build up our forces and to effectively fight against the enemy.

Along with the great work mentioned we still have some weaknesses and unfinished work. For example, sometimes they do not have good knowledge of the enemies' schemes, and their consciousness toward the change for peace and the enemies' destruction in the style of "termites destroying a house" is not high. In some places they still think that there are battles with weapons when there are enemies. They do not yet thoroughly understand the danger that the enemies use, such as economic and psychological warfare schemes to destroy our nation.

9884/12851

CSO: 4206/33

VIENTIANE PRIVATE SECTOR TRANSPORT UNITS FACE CONTROLS

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATVET LAO in Lao 26 Nov 86 p A4

[Article: "Vientiane Capital Extensively Cooperates with Private Sector in Transport Work"]

[Text] In a spirit of promoting the plenum of the Fourth Party Congress and implementing the policy of the party and the government on dividing the managerial levels between the center and the localities, and between Vientiane Capital and nearby districts, so they will be in agreement with the new socialist economic management machinery, the Vientiane Capital Administrative Committee is increasing its cooperation with the private sector's collective associations for land and water transport work based on mutual benefit.

In order to make the transport work serve well for circulation and distribution in a timely manner, on the afternoon of 5 November the communications, transportation and post and base construction section for Vientiane Capital announced the setting up of the office for land and water transport controls. This placed the members of the land and water transport association under the Office of Land and Water Transport Controls with direct guidance from the communications and transportation section of Vientiane Capital.

According to Mr Sai Phakasoum, vice minister and chief of the communications, transportation and base construction for Vientiane, bringing the private sector's collective transport association under the Office of land and water transport controls is a way to build a base for transport work in Vientiane Capital which has expanded rapidly, and it is also in agreement with the policy of the party and the government in the new phase of the revolution in our country. In particular, this means the use of the private economy for participating in economic construction, improving circulation and distribution within Vientiane Capital, and in guaranteeing the three benefits.

9884/12851

CSO: 4206/33

PARTY MEMBERSHIP, TECHNICAL CADRE GROWTH DESCRIBED

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 20 Nov 86 pp 23, 24

[Article by V Phonchanheung: "Party Growth and Leadership Role"]

[Excerpts] Since the liberation of our nation, there has been a rapid increase in the number of cadres and party members. Previously there were only a few thousand guidance cadres from the district level and up who were at the basic level. The basic level cadres have now increased by a factor of four, and the mid- and high-levels have increased by almost a factor of five. The number of scientific and technical cadres and engineering cadres has increased from 12,000 to 60,000 with 6,000 cadres at the university level and 22,200 at the mid-level. The new cadres have all been trained in our country and in fraternal socialist nations. Most of these people were originally working people and the children of cadres and government employees. The number of female cadres and multiethnic cadres has increased rapidly in many different levels and different work sections.

In the past 10 years since the Third Party Congress, the party members and construction of the party base in all the localities and work sections has rapidly expanded. The number of party members has doubled nationwide. Prior to the liberation, only 60 percent of the cantons and 39 percent of the villages throughout the country had party bases. Now 87 percent of the cantons and 65 percent of the villages have a party base and party members.

The party states that the grassroots are strongholds for advancement. The districts are the main economic units, and national defense acts as a bridge to facilitate all work in the grassroots to progress to areas for relating agriculture, forestry and industry. The provinces are the main strategic units.

9884/12851

CSO: 4206/33

KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS ON REELECTION

From GDR's Honecker

BK251200 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 18 Nov 86 pp 1, 4

[16 November "congratulatory message" from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee, to Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee]

[Text] To Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee:

On the occasion of your election as general secretary of the new LPRP Central Committee, on behalf of the SED Central Committee, the communists in my country, and in my own name, I would like to extend my wholehearted congratulations to you, comrade.

I sincerely wish you, comrade, good health, a sense of creativeness, and greater victories in fulfilling your responsibilities and materializing the resolutions adopted at the Fourth LPRP Congress.

I assure you, comrade, that in the immediate future, the SED and the people of the GDR will continue to do everything to strengthen our friendship, fraternal solidarity, and all-round cooperation with the LPRP and the Lao people on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

With due socialist respect.

Berlin, 16 November 1986

The SED Central Committee

[Signed] Erich Honecker, general secretary.

Nicaragua's Ortega's Congratulations

BK271345 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Dec 86

["Recent" message of congratulations from Daniel Saavedra Ortega, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, to Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee]

[Text] On behalf of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and in my own name, I would like to express congratulations to you on the occasion of your reelection as general secretary of the LPRP.

We highly appreciate the lofty responsibility of the LPRP. The Sandinist National Liberation Front regards as its own the successes recorded by the LPRP in leading the people, defending the country, and building socialist bases in Laos.

May you, comrade, win great success in leading the Lao people to implement the resolutions adopted by the Fourth LPRP Congress.

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CSO: 4206/40

GDR'S WALDE ADDRESSES LPRP CONGRESS

BK241350 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 18 Nov 86 p 3

[Speech by Werner Walde, candidate member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, SED, Central Committee Politburo and SED delegation head, at the Fourth LPRP Congress in Vientiane on 13 November]

[Text] Respected Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, dear comrades:

I am happy to have the honor of bringing fraternal, militant salutations from the SED, the SED Central Committee, and Comrade General Secretary Erich Honecker and from the GDR people to the comrade delegates to the Fourth LPRP Congress and to all the communists and working people of the LPDR.

The communists and working people of our country profoundly respect and ardently sympathize with your party and the Lao people who are staunchly and persistently struggling in Southeast Asia for a happy life and for our common cause.

As your companions in arms, we are overwhelmingly pleased with the achievements recorded by you in the past years. Profound changes have taken place in your life--the supply of locally produced food has been stabilized; the campaign to stamp out illiteracy has been fulfilled; educational and public health works have been developed clearly; and the LPDR's international prestige has increased with each passing day.

Closely cooperating with the various countries in the socialist community and with the SRV and the PRK, the LPDR has made great contributions to the struggle which is spreading throughout the world for peace and social progress.

Your country's successful development is directly linked with the further fashioning of the Marxist-Leninist line of the LPDR, with the strengthening of the ranks of the party, and with the growing confidence of the people in the success of the revolutionary cause. Convincing proof of this are the creative atmosphere shrouding the fourth party congress, the soberminded analysis of the success of its line and policies and of various problems that will be resolved, and the vivid and constructive debate of the delegates.

We sincerely congratulate your party and the Lao people for your historic gains on the road to socialism and in your national defense cause. The SED and the GDR will always stand by your side and nothing can break our solidarity.

Dear comrades, the 11th SED Congress was convened 7 months ago. The decisions of this congress mark the starting point for the new stage of the building of developed socialism in the GDR. Our party has set for itself the task of boosting the capability of our national economy through an extensive application of most modern science and technology and of producing more and better products for export from the available raw materials and other materials. All economic successes are closely linked with the further improvement of the people's working and living conditions. This course of the unity of economic and social policies makes possible our steady advancement in the socialist construction.

The working people of the GDR are fully confident in the SED's line and policies. They have responded to the decisions of the 11th congress with new initiatives and by increasing the gains of their labor. At the same time, our people have understood more and more distinctly the inseparable relationship between the strengthening of socialism and the securing of peace. The slogan "my work place is the station of my battles for peace" has become the guiding principle for the actions of millions of the people in our country. We are implementing our plans in close alliance with the Soviet Union and in close cooperation with various fraternal socialist countries. For this reason, we are pleased and satisfied with the further strengthening of the fraternal relations and multifaceted cooperation between the LPDR and the GDR, the Soviet Union, and other countries in the socialist community.

Dear comrades, the SED and the LPRP and our two peoples and two countries have maintained close relationship on the basis of friendship and firm solidarity. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed between Comrades Kaysone Phomvihane and Erich Honecker has become a strong incentive for our relations. On the basis of this treaty, our mutual relations are continuing to develop significantly; the cooperation between our two parties is full of mutual confidence; and we have achieved satisfactory successes in economic relations.

Hundreds of students and working people from Laos have studied in the GDR to acquire knowledge and skills that their homeland needs. GDR specialists are carrying out their class assignments in the training of skilled workers, for example, at the Pakpasak technical vocational school, and at some higher and intermediate-level schools and in the coffee growing area of Champassak Province.

Let comrades be assured that the communists and the entire people of the GDR will be your reliable friends in the future and will always provide fraternal support for you in your socialist construction cause and in defending your country's interests in the international arena.

Dear comrades, the world today is in a complex situation. Humanity is threatened by a nuclear holocaust unless it is possible to halt the arms race and to switch to disarmament. The Soviet Union and other members of the Warsaw Pact have advanced various far-reaching initiatives for the purpose of searching for ways acceptable to all for a secure peace. Various nations placed great hopes on the meeting in Reykjavik between CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Reagan. But the chance of clearing the road for further steps toward nuclear disarmament was left unused. The U.S. Administration, which once more placed its aspirations to military superiority above the interests of mankind, bears the full responsibility for this.

We regard it as great encouragement that the Soviet Union continues to pursue its policy of peace and disarmament by keeping up its constructive proposals even after the Reykjavik meeting. It is in this spirit that the supreme leaders of the fraternal parties of CEMA countries unanimously agreed at their recent working meeting in Moscow that it is necessary to intensify joint efforts in the interest of peace and security.

In this century, the world can and must be freed from nuclear arms and outer space must not be militarized. The GDR in turn is resolved, by means of dialogue, by way of collaboration with all forces that desire peace, to tirelessly struggle for a secure future for mankind.

In the struggle for peace and security, the Asia-Pacific region is extremely important. We fully support the comprehensive proposals, contained in Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech, for the solution of the problems that exist in the region in the interest of peace and the security of mankind.

Our party highly appreciates the active effort of the LPDR together with the SRB and the PRK for a dialogue and mutual understanding, as well as their joint constructive proposals for a peaceful settlement of controversial issues and for a normalization of relations with neighboring countries. We regard all these as highly responsible steps for an improvement of the situation in the region and, at the same time, a great contribution to the defense of world peace.

The recent official friendship visits by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, to the DPRK, the PRC, and to the MPR also served the further strengthening of the positions of socialism, the more active cooperation between all socialist states in the struggle for securing peace.

Our party maintains that the results of the visits will have a positive impact on international relations and that they will meet the great responsibility which the communists and all peace-loving forces carry in today's tense and complex time.

Dear comrades, deeply impressed by the optimistic and creative spirit which marks the deliberations at your congress, I wish you and the fraternal Lao

people great success in implementing the decisions of the fourth congress and in their peaceful national construction work for the people's happy and plentiful life.

Long live the durable friendship between the SED and the LPRP!

Long live socialism and peace!

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CSO: 4206/40

ROMANIAN PARTY GREETES LPRP CONGRESS

BK201442 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 24 Nov 86 pp 1, 2, 3

[Text] On the occasion of the convening of the Fourth LPRP Congress, the RCP [Romanian Communist Party] Central Committee has sent the following greetings message to the Lao counterpart:

Respected comrades, on behalf of the RCP, General Secretary Nikolai Ceausescu, and the Romanian Communists and laboring people, we would like to extend our warm and comradely salutations to all the delegates attending the LPRP Congress, and the entire Lao Communists and people. We wish your congress a success.

Under the leadership of the LPRP, the Lao people have fulfilled the national-democratic revolution and transformed Lao society into a profoundly revolutionary society to ensure advancement toward building a new life along the socialist path.

We are extremely proud of the progress scored by you, comrades, in building the material and technical foundations for socialism and in developing industry, agriculture, education, and culture. We wholeheartedly wish the Lao Communists and laboring people new, greater successes in the task of economic development in their country.

Your party's congress has created a good opportunity for the strengthening of the relations of friendship and solidarity between the RCP and the LPRP and between our two countries and peoples. The essence of these relations is the militant solidarity and diplomatic, political, and material support rendered consistently by the Romanian people to the Lao people in their national liberation struggle against colonialism and imperialism and in developing their country into an independent state in accordance with their aspirations for freedoms and progress. We would like to reiterate our conviction that in the new situation in which the Lao people are marching along the socialist path, the basis for strengthening the Romanian-Lao relations of friendship has been built in the spirit of a treaty reached by Comrade Nikolai Ceausescu and Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane during their meeting, aimed at further enhancing the cooperation in the economic, technical, scientific, and other fields and mutual efforts by both sides based on mutual interests

and in the interests of the two peoples, as well as for the common cause of socialism and peace.

At present, our entire people have closely united around the RCP, and Comrade General Secretary Nikolai Ceausescu has resolutely implemented the resolution adopted at the 13th RCP Congress and the program to build all-round developed socialism so as to advance toward communism. In particular, the strategic goal of the new period from now until the year 1990 is to take Romania from being a developing country to become an intermediate-level developing one; from now until the year 2000 the goal is to fully apply the communist principles to every aspect of the people's labor and life. We have concentrated efforts on developing the economy, fulfilling the tasks of the scientific and technical revolution, and carrying out the agricultural revolution so as to ensure the vigorous development of production forces and the economic efficiency in all aspects and to ensure new quality in the people's work and living conditions.

We are resolute in the struggle to consolidate and strengthen the party's leading role, to consolidate the production relations in our society, to consolidate the leading organizations in leading society, and to apply the workers' principles of self-guidance and self-management by adhering to the revolutionary theme: Socialism is built by the people and for the people. We always pay attention to consolidating democracy for revolutionary workers by allowing laboring people to directly participate in the leadership in all spheres of work in order to improve the material and spiritual life of the people.

Realities have proved that a socioeconomic development plan of a country can be fulfilled only when it is carried out under the condition of peace. Therefore, we are of the view that due to the worsening international situation at present, our fundamental concern is to end the arms race and to begin to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in general so as to guarantee the esteemed rights of mankind to enjoy freedom and sovereignty. Our party and state have determinedly carried out the struggle aimed at reducing and eventually doing away with all nuclear weapons in Europe and throughout the world. To halt all nuclear arms tests and all acts of the militarization of space, to reduce the conventional weapons, manpower, and military spending, I strongly support the notion of resolving all conflicts only through negotiation. I strongly support any attempt to resolve the issue of underdevelopment and to set up a new international economic order.

With regard to our internationalist duty, first of all, Romania has paid close attention to strengthening our friendship, cooperation, and solidarity with all the socialist countries. At the same time, we also are concerned with developing and strengthening our relations with the developing countries and all states in the world regardless of their social systems. We always strengthen our relations with other states on the basis of complete equality, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, refraining from interfering in each other's internal affairs, and mutual interests.

The RCP consistently strives to strengthen our vast cooperation with all the communist and workers parties, the socialist parties, the social democrat parties, all national liberation movements, all democratic organizations, and all progressive forces struggling against the imperialists in the fight to halt the arms race and in support of peace, economic and social progress, and happiness and justice in the world.

We wish you, comrades, great success in implementing the various resolutions adopted at your congress and in fulfilling the socioeconomic development program along the socialist path for the sake of the happiness and wealth of our Lao friends.

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CS0: 4206/ 39

WPK DELEGATE'S SPEECH AT FOURTH LPRP CONGRESS

BK240929 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 27 Nov 86 p 3

["Speech by Comrade Yom Tae-chun, head of the WPK Delegation" to the Fourth LPRP Congress held in Vientiane 13-15 November--date not given]

[Text] Respected Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihane, beloved delegates:

First of all, on behalf of the WPK Central Committee, I would like to wholeheartedly hail the Fourth LPRP Congress and to convey the fraternal greetings of our party members to all the delegates attending this congress and all the Lao party members.

The fourth congress of your party will review all the achievements scored by the Lao people in carrying out the revolution and national construction under your leadership in the past and it will adopt new guidelines for stimulating the socialist construction in the future.

We firmly believe that this congress, which has been organized with the strong aspirations and great attention of the Lao people, will discuss in complete detail all the views raised in this session and will triumphantly fulfill its tasks.

Since the 1st day of its inception, the LPRP, which is the vanguard unit of the workers and the general staff command of the Lao revolution, has continuously organized and mobilized the Lao people to carry out the national liberation struggle against the U.S. imperialists. After attaining the victory in the revolution, under the leadership of the LPRP headed by respected Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, the industrious Lao people have continued the struggle to effect socialist development in the political, economic, cultural, and other fields and have scored numerous achievements. Particularly, your party and people have energetically and attentively tried to translate into reality the cooperativization movement and to become self-sufficient in food supply.

At present, Laos has managed to do away with the economic vestiges left behind by the colonialists and has made progress in developing national culture and education. The people's living conditions have been gradually improved.

We, the Korean people, are greatly elated at the successes scored by the Lao people in carrying out the revolution and socialist construction. We extend our wholehearted congratulations to you.

We hope that, holding aloft the resolutions adopted at this fourth congress, the Lao people will score yet greater victories in carrying out the production relations, ideological, cultural, scientific, and technical revolutions.

Comrades, we, the Korean people, are victoriously promoting the socialist construction by steadfastly uniting around our party Central Committee led by the great leader Kim Il-song. We are carrying out the three revolutions--ideological, technical, and cultural--under the complex situation of directly confronting the U.S. imperialists.

At present, our party is more closely unified and united than ever. It has grown up and developed into an invincible party rich with experienced and talented leadership. It has carried out a vigorous struggle with great aspirations and firm belief in our victory under the ardent leadership of our beloved leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The situation of the socialist construction in our country is excellent, and its future is bright.

But the task of our people in linking the artery of our nation, which has been cut off, and in peacefully reunifying our country has still encountered with numerous difficulties. In contrast with our people's aspirations to attain peace and to reunify the country peacefully, the U.S. imperialists have brought into South Korea more than 1,000 nuclear warheads and massive war weapons in preparations for waging a nuclear war and have stepped up activities to divide the two parts of Korea so as to turn South Korea into their permanent colonial bases.

Our party and government have consistently tried to reduce the tension in the Korean Peninsula, to safeguard peace in Asia and the world, and to solve the Korean problem through peaceful means.

In the past, we advanced a reasonable and constructive proposal to reunify the country, including the setting up of the Republic of Democratic Federation of Korea [Sathalanalat Sahaphan Pasathippatai Kolio]. This year, we made a proposal to open talks between military authorities and to turn the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and a zone of peace so as to pave the way for the ultimate realization of peace in Korea and national reunification.

Because our proposal for national reunification and peace is correct, it has received complete support and endorsement from your party and people as well as from other peoples and countries throughout the world.

On this occasion, I would like to express our profound thanks to the LPRP, the government, and the people of the LPRP for extending steady support

and solidarity to the struggle of our people, aimed at reunifying the country and building socialism.

The close solidarity between the Lao and Korean parties, governments, and peoples is beneficial to our common cause in fighting the imperialists to safeguard peace in Asia and the world and to build a new Asia with peace and sovereignty.

We will continue our efforts to further enhance the friendship relations between our two parties and nations.

Long live peace and the solidarity between the WPK and the LPRP and between the Korean and Lao peoples!

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CS0: 4206/40

LEADERS RECEIVE GREETINGS ON NATIONAL DAY

Polish Greetings

BK261455 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] On the occasion of the 11th founding anniversary of the LPDR, the Polish leaders sent a greetings message to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR.

The message, signed by Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Polish United Workers Party and chairman of the Council of State, and Comrade Zbigniew Messner, chairman of the Council of Ministers, reads:

We would like to extend our profound congratulations to the Lao people for building the foundation of socialism under the leadership of the LPRP. We have closely followed the proceedings of the Fourth LPRP Congress which has reviewed the achievements in the sociopolitical transformation scored in recent years by the Lao people's administration and which has defined significant tasks for the years to come.

Together with fraternal Vietnam and Cambodia, the LPDR has made excellent contributions to the struggle to normalize the situation in Southeast Asia and to turn it into a region of peace, stability, and cooperation, thus increasing its prestige and position in the international arena.

We are satisfied with the development of the fraternal friendship and cooperation between our two countries on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism. We believe that the strengthening of Polish-Lao ties in the immediate future will meet the vital interests of our two countries and for the cause of peace and socialism in the world.

At the end of the message, the Polish leaders wished the fraternal Lao Communists, government, and people successes in implementing the resolutions adopted at the Fourth LPRP Congress, in further enhancing the people's state, and in building the socialist state in Laos.

Cuba, Romania Send Messages

BK270811 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] Recently, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR, received a message of greetings from Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of Laos' national day.

The message reads as follows: 2 December 1975 was the day of victory of the Lao people in doing away with the old society of feudalism--the system which dragged the Lao people into poverty and backwardness. The 2 December 1975 victory has opened a new road--the road of socialist construction--for the Lao people under the LPRP's clear-sighted leadership. We highly appreciate the Lao people's efforts in supporting the progress of various nations in the world over the past years, efforts which have contributed to the consolidation of peace in the region. We wish the Lao people success in implementing the resolutions of the recent Fourth LPRP Congress.

Our Cuban people take this occasion to reiterate our militant solidarity with the Lao people. We are convinced that the Lao people will certainly achieve successes in the struggle to promote and expand their new social system and in safeguarding their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In conclusion, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz expresses his conviction that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples, parties, and governments of the two countries will be further developed with each passing day.

On the same occasion, Comrade Phoum Sipaseut, our Lao foreign affairs minister, has also received a message of greetings from Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, foreign relations minister of the Republic of Cuba.

A further report states that Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, has also sent a message of greetings to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR. The message reads as follows:

On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the LPDR's national day, on behalf of the Council of State, the Romanian people, and in my own name, I am pleased to convey warm, friendly greetings and best wishes to the LPRP and the Lao people.

The establishment of the LPDR 11 years ago is considered a very significant event in the history of the Lao people. It was a concluding victory of the

Lao people under the LPRP's leadership in their protracted struggle in a spirit of sacrifice against colonialism and imperialism for the independent and national construction in accordance with their desire for freedom and progress. The Romanian people have closely followed the Lao people's struggle. They have supported and maintained solidarity with the Lao people in efforts to build a new life, build socialism, and implement the resolutions of the Fourth LPRP Congress.

I am convinced that with our joint efforts, the Romanian-Lao relations of friendship will be further promoted and expanded for the benefits of our two countries and two peoples and for the common interests of socialism, peace, and cooperation.

On the same occasion, Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister of our country, has also received a greetings message from Comrade Ioan Totu, foreign affairs minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Greetings From Bulgaria

BK261221 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR, received a joint greetings message from the leaders of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on the occasion of the 11th founding anniversary of the LPDR. The message, signed by Comrade Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bulgaria and chairman of the State Council, and Comrade Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, says:

Throughout the past 11 years, under the leadership of the LPRP, the Lao people have scored clear-cut successes in building a new life and in safeguarding the revolutionary gains against the destruction and subversion by the imperialists and international reactionaries. The recently concluded Fourth LPRP Congress has proportionately outlined the tasks for socioeconomic development for the immediate future in order to raise the living conditions of the Lao people.

The LPDR's foreign policy of peace aimed at safeguarding and strengthening peace, friendship, and cooperation with the countries within the socialist communist has made the position and prestige of Laos more prominent in the international arena. The People's Republic of Bulgaria completely supports the constructive proposals of the fraternal Indochinese countries--Laos, the SRV, and the PRK--aimed at turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation.

In their message, the Bulgarian leaders stressed: The fraternal friendship and fruitful cooperation between our parties and countries on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism and on the spirit of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between our two countries will be further developed and bear more fruit.

In conclusion, the Bulgarian leaders wished the Lao people great achievements in implementing the resolutions adopted at the Fourth LPRP Congress, aimed at building a new society, progress, and world peace.

On the same occasion, Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister, of the LPDR, also received a similar message from Comrade Petur Mladenov, foreign affairs ministers of Bulgaria.

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CSO: 4206/40

DEFENSE MINISTER GREETES PRK COUNTERPART ON APPOINTMENT

BK250359 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 16 Dec 86

[13 December greetings message from General Khamtai Siphandon, national defense minister and LPA commander in chief, to Koy Buntha, national defense minister of PRK]

[Text] Respected comrade minister: On the occasion of your having the honor of being appointed national defense minister of the PRK, on behalf of the cadres and combatants in the entire LPA and in my own name, I would like to convey warmest, friendly salutations, greetings, and best wishes to you, comrade. I am elated to note that the relations of friendship, special militant solidarity, and all-round cooperation between our two peoples and two armies of Laos and Cambodia have been increasingly enhanced and developed with each passing day.

I am convinced that under the leadership of the KPRP and the PRK National Defense Ministry with you comrade as chief, the KPRAF will be developed and strengthened daily and achieve repeated victories, thus significantly contributing to the further strengthening of the already close solidarity and militant alliance among the three nations and three armies of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

May the ties of friendship, special militant solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the Lao and the Cambodian armies and peoples be fruitfully developed and last forever! I wish you, comrade minister, good health and great success in performing your heavy and noble tasks.

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CSO: 4206/40

PASASON HAILS OPENING OF 6TH CPV CONGRESS

BK201558 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 15 Dec 86

[15 December PASASON editorial: "A Very Significant Event in the History of the Vietnamese Revolution"]

[Text] Today, the Sixth CPV Congress will be elegantly convened in Hanoi capital after scrupulous preparations have been made for some period of time. This is another significant political event of the Vietnamese revolution and the CPV. It is an event to which not only the Vietnamese people, but also the Lao people as well as peace-loving people throughout the world, have looked forward. This CPV congress will mark the beginning of an era of new development of the Vietnamese nation on its path toward socialism. It will promote in all respects the party's leadership role toward the development in various fields in the social life, thus enabling the SRB to make an ever greater contribution to the construction work of the people in Indochina and to the international workers movement.

On this occasion, the Lao Communists and people of various tribes would like to wholeheartedly salute and welcome the congress, and on an invitation by the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, our party delegation led by Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihane has taken to the fraternal Vietnamese Communists and people the friendship, solidarity, and affectionate sentiments from our Lao Communists and people of various tribes.

It is clearly proved through the decades of struggle to defend and build the Vietnamese country that the CPV, the party which originated from the Indochinese Communist Party and was founded by President Ho Chi Minh, beloved leader of the Vietnamese people and close comrade-in-arms of the Lao people, has served as the core in leading the entire Vietnamese people to overcome all difficulties and obstacles through blustering storms in carrying out the cause of struggle to resist and defeat the colonialists and neocolonialists. Under the CPV's leadership, the Vietnamese people have won one victory after another; they finally achieved victory in completely liberating the country and reunifying the nation in 1975. This victory has served as a path for the Vietnamese revolution to march forward to a new stage, namely the stage of the securing of defense and building the socialist country.

In this initial step toward socialism in the period of transition, the period full of many new and complicated problems, the CPV has continued to promote and expand its true revolutionary and scientific nature and has led this difficult cause to success, thus meeting the confidence of the people and various friendly countries in the world. The overall guidances of the socialist revolution and the guidances for the socioeconomic construction in the initial stage of the transition period as put forth by the previous Fifth CPV Congress have been correctly proved through actual practice in conformity with the practical conditions of the Vietnamese country. This has been clearly shown through the achievements in various fields as scored by the entire Vietnamese people. For example, in food production, they could produce only 14.4 million metric tons of food in 1980 while the production increased to as many as 18.2 million metric tons in 1985; the number of industrial trees has also considerably increased when compared to 1970. Livestock breeding has also been vigorously developed. Reforestation has been carried out on some 450,000 hectares of land. Fishing has also increased approximately 45 percent compared to 1980. Industry has also developed with an average annual increase of 13 percent. Production of several types of products, such as electrical appliances, textiles, pulp, cement, electricity, spare parts, and inorganic fertilizer has also increased. Some 4.1 metric tons of food stuffs have been procured by the state each year. Exports have increased by two times compared to 1980.

In the past 5 years, more than 300 major enterprises and several thousand small and medium-size enterprises have been established, thereby contributing to strengthening the foundations of the national economy and supplying important products to society, and improving the living conditions of workers and farmers. At the same time, work in the educational, scientific, technical, cultural, public health, and social spheres has also been continuously developed; national defense and public security maintenance work has been effectively ensured, promptly thwarting the enemy's infiltration attempts along the border; and the internationalist duties toward Laos and Cambodia have been fulfilled.

The Lao Communists and people of all tribes are very proud of the great victories scored by the fraternal Vietnamese Communists and people. The Lao Communists and people of all tribes regard them as their own as well as the common victories of the three Indochinese peoples and all oppressed people. This is because the victories of the fraternal Vietnamese people have further increased the strength of the revolution of the three Indochinese peoples, of the socialist system, the communist movements, and all the national liberation movements. They have also contributed to the revolutionary cause and the struggle for peace in Southeast Asia and the world.

The LPRP and the Lao people of all tribes are very proud to have the CPV as a close and reliable comrade. The friendship and solidarity between our two peoples have been tested in the bloodshed throughout the history of struggle against the common enemies in the same trenches. Every victory of the Lao and Vietnamese peoples has been scored thanks to the bloodshed shared by

the Lao and Vietnamese combatants. That is why the relations between our two parties, states, and peoples are of a rare, pure, and special nature which cannot be destroyed by any enemies.

On this historic occasion, the Lao Communists and people of all tribes would like to express our profound gratitude to the CPV and the fraternal Vietnamese people for consistently rendering wholehearted assistance and support to our people's revolutionary cause. At the same time, the Lao Communists and people of all tribes would also like to express our fond memory and affection to the great President Ho Chi Minh who nurtured and fostered the special relations, militant solidarity, and all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam and among Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia to bear beautiful fruit at all times.

Our party and people fully realize that the strengthening of the militant solidarity and the broadening of the special relations and all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam and among Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia are a matter of life and death to the destiny of each country, a law for development of the revolutions in Indochina, and a necessary condition for the three countries to fulfill their historic obligations as the socialist outpost in Southeast Asia.

Our party and people are determined to join in efforts with the Vietnamese party and people and the Cambodian party and people to further enhance more profoundly and firmly the militant solidarity, special relations, and all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam and among the three Indochinese peoples in order to fight together to defend the territory of each country and for peace in Southeast Asia and the world. We hope that the Sixth CPV Congress will be able to resolve new issues of the epoch and become a compass for the Vietnamese revolution to advance toward new victories, thereby bringing happiness to the Vietnamese people.

May the Sixth Congress of the honorable and majestic CPV attain glorious success!

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CSO: 4206/40

ARMY EDITORIAL MARKS VIETNAMESE ARMY DAY

BK260816 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 22 Dec 86

[22 December KONGTHAP PASASON editorial: "Those Who Love, Assist, and Protect the People"]

[Text] Today, 22 December 1986, the VPA is 42 years old. On this glorious occasion, cadres and combatants in the entire LPA extend warm salutations and best wishes to the fraternal heroic VPA.

In the latter part of 1939, the Vietnamese revolution shifted its strategic line, regarding the national liberation and positive preparations for an armed uprising to seize power as the central tasks. In the movement of attacking the French and driving out the Japanese militarists, partial uprisings and the conduct of a partial guerrilla war took place in many localities; various armed organizations, for example, the Bac Son guerrilla group and guerrillas in southern Vietnam, emerged. Later, the Bac Son guerrilla group unit was renamed the National Salvation Group. Then various units of the National Salvation Group were established in various stronghold areas.

Implementing President Ho Chi Minh's instruction, an armed propaganda unit for the liberation of Vietnam was officially established on 22 December 1944. It was born and grew up in the people's raging, repeated, and extensive national salvation movements against the French and the Japanese fascists.

The VPA has grown up through the process of building and fighting over the past 42 years full of glorious victories. Under the invincible banner of the Indochinese Communist Party in the past or the CPV at present, the VPA, together with the entire people, has won great victories of historical significance, such as the successful uprising to stage the revolution of August 1945, the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam--the first state of workers and peasants in Southeast Asia, the defeat of the famous Dien Bien Phu operation and the French imperialists' colonialist war, the liberation of one half of the country, the defeat of the U.S. imperialists' neocolonialist war of aggression, the liberation of southern Vietnam, the unification of the country, and the guiding of the country toward socialism.

Early in 1979, the VPA won a great victory in the battle to defend the country and oppose external aggression and splendidly fulfilled its international

obligation of assisting the fraternal Cambodian people in rising up to wipe out the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique. The VPA has grown and become strong ceaselessly first of all thanks to the leadership of the party and respected and beloved President Ho Chi Minh. The CPV has adopted a creative military line and the strategy of people's war and mastered military science and arts. It has provided all-round and direct training and guidance for and nurtured cadres and combatants so that they will have a lofty spirit of patriotism and the spirit of profoundly hating the enemy and be determined to win victories and to fight and win over the enemy.

The party's leadership decides the army's true nature of working class and is a factor ensuring that the VPA is always loyal to the country, people, and party and is ready to fight and sacrifice for the independence and freedom of the country and for socialism. The VPA has gone through all difficulties and hardships and has fought heroically and gallantly. It has striven to positively contribute to carrying out triumphantly the line and tasks of the revolution. Meanwhile, it has resolutely struggled to safeguard the party's line, which is the basis of the ideological and spiritual unity within the entire party, army, and people. It has also smashed all sabotage activities of the enemy. It has gloriously fulfilled combat tasks on various battlefields in the country and international obligations in various fraternal countries as well as the task of combat readiness to defend the country and the people's peaceful labor in the country's border areas.

Born from the people and fighting for the people's happiness, the VPA and the Vietnamese people are closely linked as blood and body. Cadres and combatants love the people, wholeheartedly assist and defend the people, rely on the people who in turn serve as their eyes and ears, and join the people in fighting the enemy and carrying out the slogan: The army and people are one. For this reason, the people have loved their sons and nephews in the VPA and are ready to sacrifice their children, property, and sweat and strength to contribute to combat tasks and the growth of the VPA.

Recalling the path of growth and strength filled with glorious successes won over the past 42 years, the VPA has strictly carried out President Ho Chi Minh's instruction which says: Be loyal to the country and the party, love the people, and stand ready to fight and sacrifice for the country's independence and freedom and for socialism.

In addition to engaging in military practices, standing ready to fight and defend the country and the people's labor, the VPA has made vigorous contributions to economic construction, for example, in fighting natural calamities. VPA cadres and combatants have surmounted whatever difficulties and hardships and splendidly fulfilled their tasks, thus deserving President Ho Chi Minh's praise that they can fulfill any task, surmount any difficulty, and defeat any enemy.

As a comrade, brother, and close companion in arms, the LPA is extremely proud of the development and strength of the fraternal VPA, because our strength is the strength of the great solidarity and special relationship.

This has become a precious tradition of the two countries and a force that no reactionary force can shake. The great solidarity and rare, exemplary special relationship between the two countries armies of Laos and Vietnam have become a very important factor deciding the success of the revolutions of the two countries. They also constitute a firm basis for the cooperation between the two countries in the new period of the revolution.

On the occasion of commemorating this glorious anniversary, the Lao cadres, combatants, and people express wholehearted congratulations and extend best wishes to the heroic Vietnamese cadres and combatants and fraternal people for great success in the cause of building and defending their socialist fatherland so that they are worthy of being the reliable tools of the party and state of the proletariat dictatorship and the genuine bulwark of the system of socialist collective mastery. May the great solidarity and special relations and cooperation between the two fraternal countries and armies of Laos and Vietnam grow and flourish continuously so as to jointly strengthen and build our national defense and public security forces, thus contributing to fulfilling the task of defending the outpost of socialism in Southeast Asia.

/6662

CSO: 4206/40

BRIEFS

UNIT TRAINING EFFECTIVENESS—Recently the AAA BN "A" conducted an examination on military tactics after more than a month of training, with the result that 11.7 percent were [good students] and 16.6 percent were strong students on the average, which was 42.6 percent of the expected plan. There was one good unit and five strong ones. Along with the training, the military units also encouraged emulation in various aspects of the work, such as building two car garages, one food shop and general store, and one information building. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KONGTHAP PASASON LAO in Lao 23 Oct 86 pp 1, 2] 9884/9190

PHONG SALY BANK DEPOSITS—Since early this year the people of ethnic groups, cadres, combatants and workers in the municipality of Phong Saly Province have made extensive savings deposits totalling over 172,200 kip. Those which were outstanding were the provincial bank which deposited 35,000 kip, the provincial transport company which deposited over 15,800 kip, the provincial industry section with 13,000 kip, and the organization section with 5,000 kip. This shows the clear understanding the people have toward the benefit of savings deposits as a way to help save capital for the government and for use in defending, constructing and strengthening the socialist nation without yielding. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 19 Nov 86 p A5] 9884/12851

UNHCR AID TO CHAMPASSAK—The installation of a 15-horsepower rice mill in Phathoumphon District, Champassak Province, is now complete, and is now in normal operation. It was provided aid by the UNHCR. In 1986 this organization assisted Laos in many projects, such as the settlement project, hospital construction, and food supply values at over \$900,000. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 26 Nov 86 p A5] 9884/12851

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH—Recently, Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited and addressed fraternal cadres and workers of the construction unit No 3, who were actively concentrating on building the Se Banghian bridge. The bridge is built with the assistance of the USSR. The construction began in January 1985. The bridge is 208 meters long and 10 meters wide. It is capable of receiving the total load of 90 metric tons. At present, the construction has been 90 percent completed. It is expected that the construction will be 100 percent completed before March 1987. This bridge is located on route 9 in Savannakhet Province. On this occasion, Nouhak Phoumsavan hailed the great achievements of the Lao workers, together

with the Soviet experts, in their persistent efforts in initially completing the main tasks of the bridge construction. He also urged the fraternal workers to continuously strive to build the bridge in order to complete it in time as expected. [Text] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 15 Dec 86 BK] /6662

NATIONAL ART FESTIVAL OPENING--On the morning of 12 December at 0900 the historic National Folk Song and Dance Festival was opened in Vientiane with the purpose of restoring and promoting the country's fine culture and arts of socialist content. It is also aimed at reviewing and managing the artistic and cultural movement in accordance with the party's artistic and cultural line opposing the imperialists' declining and reactionary culture and at creating a joyous atmosphere to hail the glorious success of the Fourth LPRP Congress which has just ended. Attending the opening ceremony were Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and acting president of the LPDR; Sisomphon Lovansai, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and acting chairman of the SPC; and members and alternate members of the party Central Committee, ministers and deputy ministers, diplomats of socialist countries in Laos, guests, and artists from 16 provinces throughout the country. [Text] [Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 12 Dec 86 BK] /6662

CSO: 4206/40

OFFICERS ARRESTED FOR SELLING AMMUNITION TO COMMUNISTS

BK280848 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 28 Dec 86 pp 1, 16

[Text:] Colonel Banchon Chawansin, spokesman of the 4th Army Region, informed SIAM RAT on 27 December about the arrest of two army officers with a large quantity of ammunition for sale to Chinese communist guerrillas of the Communist Party of Malaya. The two officers were identified as Lieutenant Suthin Pho-on, 35, from the Army Veterinary and Remount Department's War Dog Training Center and Sublieutenant Sukhin Yaowarat, 15th Infantry platoon commander of the 3d Battalion who is now suspended from military service.

Colonel Banchon disclosed that the Chinese communist guerrillas are quiet at present as the government side is launching continuous offensive against them in a bid to destroy their strongholds. There are some 1,600 Chinese guerrillas operating with their bases located in Bannangsata, Than To, and Betong districts of Yala Province, Sukhirin subdistrict of Narathiwat Province, and in Sadao and Na Thawi districts of Songkhla Province. Meanwhile, the number of the communist terrorists and separatists in the same area is estimated at 200. Colonel Banchon said: "The Chinese communist guerrillas lack modern weapons. Most of them are still using carbines left over from World War II."

Acting on a tip-off that war weapons would be sold to the Chinese communist guerrillas in the area of Bannangsata District on 26 December, Yala Provincial Police Superintendent Police Colonel Bunchua Nukunrat ordered Police Lieutenant Colonel Niyom Anpruang, inspector general of Bannangsata police station, to set up a checkpoint on Road 410 between Yala provincial town and Betong District. Later a jeep with three men refused to stop at the checkpoint. A police pickup truck was then sent to chase it and forced it to stop to be searched at Village No 1, Tambon Khuan Bang Lang, Bannangsata District. Besides the two army officers, Chuang Faengchanda, 50, native of Chalong Chai Village No 3 of Tambon Khuan Bang Lang was also arrested. The police captured 13 boxes of 11,400 rounds of AKA ammunition, 23 rounds of M-79 ammunition, 85 empty magazines, 6 loaves of bread, 6 bottles of jam, and 6 bottles of soda water.

During the primary interrogation, Lt Suthin confessed that he and his colleagues were about to sell the ammunition to the Chinese communist guerrillas at Chalong Chai village and that they got the ammunition from some men from Bangkok who are war weapon dealers active along the Thai-Cambodian border.

/8309

CSO: 4207/80

FIELD COMMANDER REVIEWS CAMBODIAN BORDER SITUATION

BK261141 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Recorded interview given by First Army Division Commander and Commander of the Burapha Force Major General San Siphon to unidentified announcer of the radio's "Army Meets the People" program on the Thai-Cambodian border situation in Prachin Buri Province--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Good morning Commander. I believe a large number of people are still interested in the border situation in Prachin Buri Province, and would like to know about it. I would like to ask you how is the situation at the border under the jurisdiction of the Burapha Force.

[San] Good morning. First, I would like to tell you that this year the 1st Army Division is in charge of the Burapha Force which controls the Thai-Cambodian border areas in Ta Phraya, Aranyaprathet, and Watthana Nakhon districts, and Khlong Hat subdistrict in Prachin Buri Province. Generally speaking, most of the fighting between Cambodia patriots and the Vietnamese forces has taken place inside Cambodia, in areas opposite Ta Phraya, Aranyaprathet, Watthana Nakhon, and Khlong Hat. In fact, the fighting began a long time ago--in 1977 Cambodia was taken over by forces of Heng Samrin backed by Vietnamese soldiers. Since then, fighting has erupted resulting in the migration of a major portion of the Cambodian population. Some of them fled the country and set up resistance forces fighting against Vietnamese occupation. The struggle has continued to date. Yet there has been nothing serious concerning the situation inside Thailand's border.

[Announcer] Is there any impact from the fighting between the Cambodian patriots and Vietnamese forces on the Thai people living near the border?

[San] Yes, there is. At certain times, Vietnamese-fired artillery shells land inside Thailand, and the Thai people living close to the border have suffered losses--their houses, their crops and livestock were damaged or destroyed. As most of the border areas under the control of the Burapha Force are not very heavily populated, no serious losses were reported in Thai border villages as a result of the current fighting inside Cambodia.

[Announcer] Fighting between the Cambodian patriots and the Vietnamese forces intensifies every dry season, with sporadic incursions into Thailand's border areas. As the dry season is approaching, I would like to ask you what is your prediction of this year's fighting situation. Will it be better or worse than last year?

[San] As we know, fighting in Cambodia intensifies in the dry season of each year. This is because in other seasons, especially in the rainy season, the Cambodian border areas opposite Thailand are mostly flooded, and it is difficult for the warring parties to move materials and supplies. This is why the situation is violent every dry season. This year, as in previous years, there is nothing for us to worry about concerning the effects of the dry-season offensives in Cambodia on the Thai border. Most of the Cambodian patriots' encampments have been destroyed, and the Cambodian patriotic forces are now operating deeper inside Cambodia. We expect that fighting between the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin forces and the Cambodian patriotic forces will intensify again this dry season, with violent mop-up operations anticipated. Yet, concerning impacts on Thailand's border areas, I think the situation will be the same as in previous years. Our border areas will be slightly affected, but there will be nothing serious.

[Announcer] We read a lot in the newspapers about incursions by Vietnamese soldiers in hot pursuit against Cambodian patriots. I would like to ask you how accurate are these reports?

[San] I am talking about the situation in areas under the control of the Burapha Force only, and so far there have been very few cases of incursions by Vietnamese soldiers in hot pursuit against Cambodian soldiers into Thailand, especially in the power part of the area under our responsibility, that is, from Aranyaprathet southward. This is because the border is clearly demarcated at Khlong Luk and Khlong Nam Sai. There have been incursions reported from Ta Phraya northward where the border is divided by markers and thus not clearly demarcated. Cambodian soldiers cross the border unknowingly many times. In such situation, we warn them and try to push them out. There has been nothing serious concerning operations to push out intruders in areas controlled by the Burapha Forces. Each time they enter into our border, we push them out or warn them and they withdraw. There has been no case of intruders holding ground in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Burapha Force.

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CSO: 4207/80

VOFA COMMENTS ON SRV PROPOSAL ON CAMBODIA

BK191619 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Station "Article": "Vietnam's Latest Proposal"]

[Text] Vietnam's envoy to the United Nations recently presented, through the Austrian envoy, Vietnam's latest proposal on Cambodia to Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Vietnam said it is willing to accept representatives of the Khieu Samphan faction in any negotiations between the CGDK and the Heng Samrin puppet regime. Experts on international affairs noted that, superficially taken, the proposal may give a feeling that Vietnam is adopting a more flexible attitude by changing from its previous stand and allowing the Khieu Samphan faction to join in the negotiations. However, if one thinks about it carefully, one can reach a conclusion about the line of thinking of the Vietnamese leadership.

First, it seems the Vietnamese leaders want to shift the responsibility for solving the problem to others. They wish the Cambodian people to settle among themselves the problem despite the fact that Vietnamese military occupation of Cambodia is the origin of the present war there. The settlement of the Cambodian problem must begin with the withdrawal of the 160,000 Vietnamese troops and advisers from Cambodia. Under the pressure of a huge Vietnamese Army, and an atmosphere of fighting, foreign occupation, and intimidation, the various Cambodian factions can never come to a conclusion in their efforts to negotiate a settlement. Besides, who can guarantee; that once a settlement is reached, Vietnam—with its army in Cambodia, or on orders from Vietnamese leaders—would not destroy it in a wink?

Second, although Vietnam has rejected it time and again, Vietnam cannot deny the presence of the Khieu Samphan faction. The faction has an army of about 40,000 men. Together with another 40,000 men of Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann, the CGDK resistance forces operation against Vietnam are quite formidable. The combined forces of Khieu Samphan, Sihanouk, and Son Sann have become highly efficient in waging guerrilla warfare. Coupled with the Cambodian people's loyalty to Prince Sihanouk, Vietnam was finally forced to recognize the potential of the patriotic forces of the tripartite factions. Moreover, the Khieu Samphan faction has been trying to improve its tactics, policies, and image. It tried to reduce the role of Pol Pot, declared a policy change toward liberalism, accepted Prince Sihanouk as the genuine state leader,

accepted self-determination of the Cambodian people, and no longer claimed to be the legitimate Government of Cambodia, toppled by the Vietnamese Army in 1978.

Third and last, and apparently the most important point, is the international change of the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin puppet government. This deserves our analysis. Recently there was a shift in power involving Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hun Sen as well as several other ministers of the Heng Samrin regime, especially those known as once fighting along with Pol Pot and Khieu Samphan. Vietnamese leaders certainly did not decide to curtail the power and role of its 30-year-old puppet prime minister, Hun Sen, because of his failure in suppressing the anti-Vietnamese resistance forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Vietnam itself is responsible for installing and keeping in power the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen clique which survives through the massive strength of Vietnamese Army behind it, and as Vietnam itself is commanding and conducting the fighting in Cambodia. Vietnamese unit commanders in Cambodia should rather be held responsible for any mistakes or defeats suffered in operations against the anti-Vietnamese resistance forces since the 1985 dry season. Hun Sen is therefore possibly being punished because he was unable to control the communist elements, Cambodian soldiers, and people resulting in an increasing number of them defecting to the resistance forces, thousands each year. Meanwhile, the patriotic forces of Prince Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan are expanding guerrilla warfare into major cities inside Cambodia, including Phnom Penh itself, where Vietnamese positions often come under attacks by the resistance forces helped by Heng Samrin's soldiers and people in the areas controlled by the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin regime.

Vietnam's recognition of Khieu Samphan is a favorable sign reflecting that the Vietnamese leaders are now aware of the realities in Cambodia. It reflects Vietnam's farsightedness. It is in keeping with the attitude adopted by concerning countries, including China and ASEAN members. All factions in Cambodia should be given an equal change in serving their people freely without external pressure. Meanwhile, this is impossible and the Cambodian people can never exercise their right to self-determination so long as Vietnam maintains its occupation forces in Cambodia. It is believed that Vietnamese leaders will have no new proposal on Cambodia at the Sixth Party Congress as they will have to concentrate on economic reform policies in order to save Vietnamese economy from collapse. They will also be busy with the division of power among the old and new leaders. Anyway, politicians and diplomats worldwide hope that the new Vietnamese leaders elected during the current congress will cooperate in forming a new policy and attitude regarding Cambodia soon so that Vietnam can concentrate on economic development and contribute to the welfare and happiness of both the Vietnamese and Cambodian people instead of building up its military might, which contradicts Vietnam's true potential. Moreover, such a militarist policy by Vietnam can never convince the world to approve its action.

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CSO: 4207/80

DAILY VIEWS SECESSIONIST PROBLEM, SOLUTIONS

BK251130 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 24 Dec 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Solutions to the Secession Problem"]

[Text] The paper THE NATION on 23 December carried a news report by Tunsathit Thapthim saying that there are indications that Muslim terrorists in the five southernmost provinces are focusing on a political approach after their military activities had been effectively curbed by government authorities.

The news report quoted several government officers as saying that the Muslim terrorists are expected to scale down their violent struggle next year in order to improve their image. The officers also said the terrorists have demanded the establishment of a Muslim university in south region and permission for Thai Muslim officials to wear Islamic dress during working hours.

The report also said that many leaders among the Thai Muslims have been supporting the so-called Mujahidin movement--the newly-formed secessionist group which has emerged following the failure of PULO [Pattani United Liberation Organization] and the BRN [Barisan Revolusi Nasional--National Revolutionary Front] to make progress in efforts to establish a new state in the five southern provinces.

The report backs up charges that have been made over the sincerity of the government in dealing with the Thai Muslims:

1. The problem of Muslim students from various institutions of higher-learning opposing a proposal by the National Security Council to the Education Ministry to limit the number of private religious schools by not issuing any new permits. If any such school decides to close, it will not be allowed to reopen.
2. Efforts to delay the establishment of an institute of Islamic studies in the Prince of Songkhla University's Pattani campus.

3. A case involving a Thai Muslim university lecturer who was framed by the administration of the university after she demanded the right to wear Islamic dress during official hours.

These three cases show that there is still religious discrimination in the country, which is not in line with the terms of the constitution on equality in rights and freedom.

We believe that only by treating the Muslim people straightforwardly and sincerely, as his Majesty the King has done, will it be possible to help them maintain a sense of being 100 percent Thais. The problem will continue if the government distrusts them.

Although the separatist movements exist, we do not believe that they will be able to spread their influence as long as the government does not force the majority of the Thai Muslims into their arms.

We hold that the government should give up some of its measures as soon as possible; otherwise, real stability will never occur in the five southernmost provinces.

/8309

CSO: 4207/80

EUROMARKET LOAN FOR REFINANCING OBTAINED

Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 86 p 17

[Text]

THAILAND will shortly be tapping the Euromarket for a US\$300 million financing to be used exclusively for refinancing, to prepay the US\$200 million syndicated loan arranged in 1982 and other loans from international sources.

The borrowing has been described by the *Asian Wall Street Journal* as one of the cheapest ever secured by the country due to the intense rivalry among banks, ending months of competition among dozens of foreign banks.

Based on overwhelming interest expressed in their funding programme by major financial institutions, representing the full range of markets and instruments, Thailand has undertaken an exhaustive analysis of its specific needs in the context of its medium-asset and liability management strategy.

The specific transaction which emerges is, according to Finance Minister Suthee Singhasaneh, "intended to bridge the loan and floating-rate notes markets."

It will be transferrable, will carry an availability period to coincide with the timing of the country's specific prepayment needs, and an amortization schedule designed to conform to its preferred maturity profile.

Thailand has appointed a coordinating group led by Morgan Guaranty to arrange this transaction. In addition to Morgan, the group comprised of Chase Manhattan, Dai-ichi

Kangyo, Industrial Bank of Japan and Societe Generale.

Pricing is expected to be set at a level that reflects current market conditions, according to a statement released by the Finance Ministry.

It said the combination of spread and front-end fees, in the context of anticipated heavy regional demand, is designed to "accommodate the interests of both the country and her major bracket lenders."

Specific details as to price and structure will be announced early next week just prior to official launching of the transaction by the coordinating group, it said.

Dr Aran Thammano, director general of the Fiscal Policy Office, added that "this transaction reflects the kingdom's policy that specific financings in any market should be consistent with both the objectives underlying the kingdom's medium term financing strategy and the market for Thai paper."

The loan, which carry an interest rate of 0.125 percentage point over London interbank offered rate (LIBOR) for the first two years and rising to 0.25 percentage point for the remaining eight years, is expected to be concluded sometime at the middle of next month.

According to the Finance Ministry, this transaction emerges at a time of improving economic trends in Thailand.

• Real GDP growth in fiscal 1986 was slightly below the target of 4 per cent, this despite

the fact that manufacturing sector registered growth of over 4.6 per cent. The drag was a result of the agricultural sector which suffered from intermittent rainfall. GDP growth for fiscal 1987 is projected to be 5 per cent.

- Inflation in fiscal 1986 was 1.9 per cent, down from 2.4 per cent and is projected for fiscal 1987 at 2 per cent.

- Current account in fiscal 1986 registered a surplus of US\$200 million, or 0.2 per cent of GDP. This represents a constant improvement over the last three years (-7.2 per cent in 1983 = -5.0 per cent in 1984 = -4.0 per cent in 1985). The 1987 projection is roughly the same level (or a surplus of US\$200 million).

- Overall balance of payments came in at a positive US\$1.3 billion vs positive US\$0.5 billion in fiscal 1985. Projected at US\$1.2-US\$1.3 billion in fiscal 1987.

- Export growth for fiscal 1986 was a strong 15.8 per cent. This was achieved despite growing protectionism and low world commodity prices.

- Reserves stand at US\$3.5 billion (or approximately 4 months of import cover).

- Debt service to ratio declined from 22.5 per cent 1985 to current level of 20.5 per cent. Projected to go below 20.0 per cent in fiscal 1987.

- While benefiting from low oil prices, the overall improvement in the economy reflects the impact of domestic adjustments and the strong export growth.

- The kingdom's borrowing programme will continue to be prudent. New commitments this year will total a maximum

of US\$1 billion, largely from official sources at concessionary rates. Moreover, the government intends to refinance existing high cost loans in order to reduce costs, achieve a good debt maturity profile consistent

with the kingdom's medium-term objectives, maintain continued market acceptance as well as access to fixed medium-term capital.

Hong Kong banks are eager to arrange the Thai loan partly because of a shortage of lending opportunities in Asia, said the AWSJ.

Thailand's popularity is explained only partly by the shortage of business opportunities in Asia. AWSJ quoted bankers as saying that the country is more attractive than other regional borrowers such as Malaysia and Indonesia, which are troubled by declining oil prices, or South Korea, whose US\$45.5 billion foreign debt is Asia's highest.

But rising exports of manufactured goods and cheaper oil imports have helped the country, said the AWSJ. While investors remain reluctant to buy floating-rate notes issued by Malaysia, Thai notes have recovered considerably from a slump in market prices toward the end of last year.

Japanese banks, in particular, are eager to expand lending, and some even have offered to arrange Thailand's loan at just 0.125 percentage point above LIBOR throughout the loan, AWSJ quoted a US executive in a US bank who was involved in the competition to arrange the financing.

But the result would be a loan dependent entirely on Japanese support, because western banks are not prepared to lend such a low interest charge, it said.

Like some other Asian countries, including Indonesia and South Korea, Thailand is fearful of becoming overdependent on the Japanese, and it is prepared to pay slightly higher financing charges to attract western lenders.

The last big Thai borrowing denominated in dollars was in January. The US\$500 million borrowing was added to the country's standby credit facilities. The facilities area reserve is intended for use only during difficult economic times.

INTERIOR MINISTRY SEEKING MORE FUNDS FOR PADDY

Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

THE Interior Ministry will request an additional allocation of 400-500 million baht from the government to fund its paddy price intervention scheme, a senior official of the ministry said yesterday.

Pisarn Moolsartaathorn, permanent secretary for interior, said the additional fund would be necessary to shore up paddy prices between January and February next year in which the prices of paddy might decline because it is the peak harvesting period.

Besides, he said, provincial authorities had already asked for a total of 810,200,000 baht to support the programme.

The Interior Ministry has spent 400 million baht to fund its paddy price intervention scheme in 52 rice-producing provinces. Pisarn voiced satisfaction on the programme, saying that five-per cent paddy in these provinces had been set at 2,500 baht per ton.

He added the additional 400-500 million baht allocation would be adequate for the local authorities to jack up paddy prices at preferable prices.

The permanent secretary also said he had instructed all provincial authorities to submit information on their paddy price intervention spendings to the ministry as soon as possible.

The information, he added, included the number of money allocated to rice millers, farmer cooperatives, and individual farmers as well as the amount of paddy bought under the programme.

The provincial officials had also been told to submit their requests for additional funds to the ministry before Dec 15, Pisarn said.

/12379

CSO: 4200/238

BANK EXPECTS UNDERUTILIZATION OF RICE FUND

Bangkok BANGKOK POST (HOME NEWS supplement) in English 14 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

Pattaya — The Bank of Thailand does not expect a 5,000 million baht rice mortgage fund to be fully utilized.

Banking Affairs Department Director Vinij Supinij said yesterday the central bank had given the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives the money to extend mortgages to rice farmers.

These are to be calculated at 80 per cent of the value of the rice for BAAC group members and 70 per cent for other farmers. Rice involved will be accepted at the place of cultivation so as not to create transportation problems.

The Bank of Thailand made the money available to the BAAC because farmers are not used to

dealing with commercial banks, Mr Vinij said.

If the amount was used in full it could mortgage up to 2.5 million tons of rice.

So far 240 rice mortgages have been extended by commercial banks ranging in value from a minimum 10,000 to 200,000 baht. The average rice price is now 2,585 baht per ton.

A central bank source said rice mortgages extended by commercial banks were less efficient because they lacked directly trained personnel.

The cost of processing mortgages is also high and as a result it is expected that commercial banks will channel only 1,000 million baht into rice.

CSO: 4200/238

NO GROWTH PREDICTED FOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

FOR the first time in recent memory, the country's agricultural sector is expected to be so badly hit that it will register a zero or even negative growth this year.

Authoritative economic forecasts to be released shortly by Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) and the Bank of Thailand are expected to express grave concern over the downward trend of the country's agriculture.

Two main factors have been blamed for the zero or negative growth for agriculture in 1986: The bad weather which had

seriously affected maize and other crops and the low crop prices in cultivated areas. Paddy, cassava and maize are expected to show negative output growth this year.

TDRI economists explained that some observers may feel that the forecast on rice prices, reflecting a zero growth in real terms, may be regarded as being too pessimistic. They have argued that the US Farm Act may lead to further price declines — so that in real terms, the price of rice may fall.

The TDRI forecasters believe that whether that argument is valid or not, the situation remains worrisome. There may

be some movements in the sugar trade but maize will be badly hit — and so will sorghum, kenaf and groundnut, and some shift out of cassava is also expected.

TDRI had last year predicted that growth in the agricultural

sector will be about 2%. But preliminary figures for the whole of 1986 have already shown that the situation is far worse than had been earlier believed.

Officially, TDRI's forecast for 1986 has put the growth rate for agriculture at 0.2% but most experts there say that the final figures will probably show a zero

growth. One study has painted an even gloomier picture of a minus-one-per cent growth rate for this sector.

TDRI believes that the agricultural sector should grow by 2.4% next year but will drop again to 1.7% the following year, deteriorating to 1.3% in 1989 and slightly up again to 1.7% in 1990.

"In the next five years, the average growth for the agricultural sector will be below 2%," said another TDRI economist.

The forecast, meanwhile, will say that the first nine months for 1986, particularly the first two quarters, saw a boom in manufactured exports, which is partly a delayed impact of the devaluation in 1984. It also reflected the continuing depreciation of the baht against the average basket of currencies of major trading partners specially Japan.

It has also been noted that while on average, agricultural export prices have declined from that in 1985, particularly the price of rice which dropped by about 20%, this has been offset by a large increase in volume, mostly drawn from the previous

year's production. The volume of rice export this year is expected to meet the target of 4.5 million tons.

PRICE ASSUMPTIONS FOR MAJOR CROPS 1987-1991	
CROP	REAL PRICE INCREASE PER ANNUM
RICE	.0%
MAIZE	-2.0%
CASSAVA	-1.5%
SUGARCANE	4.0%
SORGHUM	-2.3%
MUNGBEAN	.0%
SOYBEAN	1.0%
GROUNDNUT	-2.0%
KENAF	-4.0%
COTTON	.5%

THIS table gives the price assumptions for major crops, based to some extent on the World Bank commodity price projections.

/12379
CSO: 4200/238

BANK OFFICIAL ON DEBT SITUATION

BK241600 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] Mrs Praphaphim Sakuntaphai, deputy director of the Economic Research Department of the Bank of Thailand, has reported on the debt situation of the country during the first 11 months of this year. She said that the total net capital inflow during the period amounted to \$538.4 million. The capital inflow occurred during the period of economic recession; capital was brought in to buy stocks at the Securities Exchange of Thailand (SET) because foreign countries saw that investments in the SET gave higher return than those in other countries, such as Japan, Hong Kong, and the United States.

In addition, during the period new foreign debts totalled \$1,754 million against repayment of loans of \$1,813 million. The amount of new borrowings was \$45 million less than that of the same period last year while repayment was more than that of last year. This was because of excess liquidity within the commercial banks and the decline in domestic interest rates—reducing the interest rate differentials between the country and abroad and causing more repayment of external loans.

Other capital inflow totalled \$350 million compared with \$363 million for the same period last year. These were in the forms of trade credits, especially machine and oil credits. The decline in oil prices attributed to the decrease of such credits.

Mrs Praphaphim also reported that the government's total external debt stood at \$3,151 million while the private sector's amounted to \$2,300.9 million. The debt service ratio of the country was reduced to 19.1 percent from the 21.7 percent of last year.

/8309

CSO: 4207/80

SIAM CITY BANK PROBLEMS

Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 86 p 19

[Text]

BANK of Thailand Governor Kamchorn Sathirakul yesterday did not rule out the possibility for the monetary authorities to perform surgery on the financially ailing Siam City Bank Ltd if it could not increase the registered capital by 1,000 million baht within this month.

Such surgery is a reduction of the bank's capital to wipe out doubtful accounts for non-performing debt as implemented in the First Bangkok City Bank.

The bank is required to raise its capital from 800 million baht to 2,300 million baht and this was already confirmed by shareholders. However, an increase of 1,000 million baht must be completed this year and 500 million baht next year.

When the deadline for existing shareholders to subscribe to new ordinary shares expired on December 9, about 500 million baht worth of new shares were bought. The bank has to offer the remaining of the 1,000 million baht shares to the public.

Kamchorn said that if it is necessary the authorities will instruct the bank to reduce its capital. However, the increased capital will not be affected. "Only the existing 800 million baht capital will be reduced. So, buyers of the new shares do not have to worry that the shares will have reduced value. They

will be separated from the old shares," he said.

Kamchorn still believes that both existing and new shareholders would be able to beat the deadline. The authorities, at the same time, will provide whatever assistance possible to old and new shareholders.

When asked whether the Fund for Rehabilitation and Development of Financial Institutions would play any role in assisting the bank, Kamchorn said the fund will be the last resort which the authorities will use to solve the problems in Siam City Bank. "The authorities will at present exercise whatever powers vested in them to handle the bank," said the governor.

Kamchorn said the Mahadumrongkul family, which holds controlling interests in the bank, has promised that Siam City Bank will be more professional in banking business.

The Mahadumrongkul family holds about 30 per cent share in the bank and it has bought up to the proportion of holding. Other buyers included members of a group of former Chairman Boonchu Rapanastien.

Kamchorn said the central bank does not want only one group to run the bank. "Whatever the problems are faced by the bank, they are not beyond remedies. Depositors should not be worried by the extent of share purchases by the

Mahadumrongkul family which has promised to be more professional in banking," the governor said.

There are many banks seeking to invest in Siam City. The best time for them is now and the central bank has worked out guidelines for the bank to solve its problems. This includes more groups of professionals in management.

"It will be similar to the First Bangkok City Bank," he said.

For the FBCB case, new shareholders have joined the rescue and they have appointed a new president. Kamchorn said there are four or five groups of investors keen in joining Siam City Bank.

Finance Minister Dr Suthes Singhasaneh said on Tuesday

that the newcomers were expected to be insurance companies and foreign banks.

Siam City executives earlier expressed apprehension over the possibility of success in boosting the capital by 1,000 million baht before the end of this month.

The family took over the controlling interests in 1983. At that time, the bank had only 17,000 million baht of assets but the current level is 29,000 million baht.

If the central bank steps in, the capital may be reduced from 100 baht par to a low of five baht par. The problems involving the bank were mainly caused by non-secured loans and boardroom conflicts when Boonchu became the chairman.

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CSO: 4200/238

POLITICIZATION OF SUGAR MILLING ISSUE

Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Dec 86 p 25

[Text]

THE decision of the Cane and Sugar Board for sugar mills in the central region to have an earlier date for cane milling has led to a dispute between cane planters in Zone 7 and Wang Kanai Group of sugar mills.

Cane planters have already approached the commander of the Ninth Army Division, Maj Gen Mongkol Amphornphisit, for help so that they can counterbalance the power of Wang Kanai Sugar Co Ltd and Chaimongkol Refined Sugar Co Ltd which have retired military men as top executives.

Industry Minister Pramual Sabhavasu earlier sought help for the two sugar mills which stand to pay heavy fines when they expanded the milling capacity without prior permission.

The two sugar mills have been lobbying hard to avoid the fines which amount to over 45 million baht. The attempt has somewhat persuaded the minister to seek milder penalty for the two mills.

But the main conflict between cane planters in Zone 7, which is the largest organized group of planters in the central region, and the Wang Kanai Group is the milling date which was moved from January 1, 1987 to December 15 this year.

Sources in the Cane and Sugar Board said that throughout last week there were movements by cane planters and 17 sugar mills in

the region who were organized to put pressure on the Wang Kanai Group.

There was a meeting in Kanchanaburi Province and Wang Kanai executives were asked not to start milling on December 15 as they want. The negotiations failed because Wang Kanai Managing Director Arre Chunfung was not there. He just sent his men to maintain the firm stand on the milling date," said the sources.

The cane planters then met Maj Gen Mongkol, who has been known to be very close to the prime minister. The Wang Kanai Group is financially backed by Thai Military Bank. Retired Gen Pramote Thavornchan, formerly the army commander-in-chief, is the

chairman of Chaimongkol Refined Sugar while Adm Praphat Chanvirat is the chairman of Wang Kanai Sugar Co.

The sources said that the sugar mills in Zone 7 have not made much movements because they stand to be affected less than cane planters under the net revenue sharing scheme whereby planters receive 70 per cent and millers 30 per cent.

The Zone 7 cane planters contend that the two mills should delay the milling date as originally set at January 1 because the sugar content and sweetness will be high. By this, one ton of cane will give more sugar yield.

The planters argue that during the 1985/86 milling season, a ton of cane yielded up

to 104.31 kilo of sugar in January 1985 which is the highest among nationwide average yield at 103.81 kilo. By this, there was an additional revenue of 600 million baht for the net revenue sharing system.

The planters contend that if the mills start working on December 15, there will be lower sugar production and the damage could be as high as 700-900 million baht, or a loss of more than 20 baht per ton for cane price.

Sources said that data provided by the Wang Kanai Group and the testing of commercial cane sugar system conducted by the Office of the Cane and Sugar in Suphanburi and Kanchanaburi provinces late last month confirmed that the sweetness has reached 20 points and the cane is ripe for milling.

The Wang Kanai Group contends that the earlier milling date sought was because both cane planters under contracts and millers are ready by December 1 and Chaimongkol, located in Suphanburi Province will accept cane supplies from contracted planters to settle the debt of planters while the mill can repay loans to credit banks.

Chaimongkol will start milling in December and require 300,000 tons of cane, or 25 per cent of Suphanburi cane output. The group contends that sugar mills in Kanchanaburi should not fear that cane supplies would be diverted from them because transportation is not favourable. It says that cane milling during the cold season will give higher sugar yield and quality. At present, only mills under the Wang Kanai Group and state-owned ones buy sugarcane based on the CCS system which is more beneficial to planters.

Sources said it was known that the data provided by the Wang Kanai Group to the board last week were incorrect and that the CCS analysis by the office was also erroneous. "But all the parties indeed wanted to have an earlier milling date, leading to bargaining because they were disputed by Zone 7 cane planters and millers. The milling date was set for December 15 instead of

December 5. It was as instructed by the minister," they said.

Zone 7 planters knew that they could not fight battle at the board level. "They then resorted to other tactics because they knew that the Wang Kanai Group also did not stick to fair play. The planters then sought support from the Kanchanaburi-based Ninth Army Division," said the sources.

Now that the issue has become politicized, the Cane and Sugar Board has decided to sit tight.

Sources said that there are three solutions. The first is for the Zone 7 Cane Planters Association to order planters not to supply cane when the milling date comes. But this is unlikely to happen.

The second solution is to have some degree of control to limit supplies to Wang Kanai Group which cannot start milling. The third is for the issue to be discussed by the board again.

For the third solution to become reality, it could be that 17 mills not under Wang Kanai, such as those under Thai Rung Ruang Group and Mitr Phol Group, to have a seven-day delay in cane milling. In practice, the secretary general of the Office of the Cane and Sugar Board has the authority to permit delay if there is a necessity.

But sources said that it is equally difficult to attain because there are only seven million tons of cane in Zone 7, compared with the capacity of over 20 sugar mills in the central region which can mill up to 18-19 million tons. When any mill starts working, other mills will have to follow because they are afraid of possible shortage in cane supplies. The damage then lies with cane planters, not the millers.

Sources on the board said that when the board meets today, it will consider setting the basic cane price for the 1986/87 milling season. At present, the difference as proposed by millers and planters are just two baht per ton.

The planters want 405 baht while the millers offer to pay 403 baht. Sources said that it would not be very difficult for the two sides to reach agreement.

Millers will not have much difficulties in obtaining financing from the Bank of Thailand through commercial banks due to relatively low interest rates. It is expected that the industry needs about 4,000-5,000 million baht of financing, which is much less than in the last season.

"When there is no financial problem, there were instead disputes among various groups. It becomes more difficult when the industry minister has interfered, making the board meaningless in deciding vital issues involving partisan interests," said the sources.

/12379

CSO: 4200/238

LOW RATE OF DOMESTIC SAVINGS REPORTED

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Pattaya — Thailand must increase its level of domestic savings, a Bank of Thailand official told the Thailand Development Research Institute yesterday.

Dr Chaiyawat Wibulswadi, director of the Economic Research Department at the central bank, said the country's level of savings is now 18% of GDP, down from 21% in 1970.

Dr Chaiyawat told the TDRI meeting on "Resources Management" at the Asia Pattaya Hotel that a low level of domestic savings means that the country has to borrow from abroad, resulting in foreign debts.

Dr Niphat Bhukkana-sut, deputy director of the Fiscal Policy Office, said a low level of domestic savings was the basic problem for Thailand, but it was also the most important problem as considered by the TDRI because the level was lower than it should be.

Dr Niphat said when the economic growth was low and the level of domestic savings was also low, then to borrow from overseas so as to correct the imbalance between savings and investment would lead to a foreign debt crisis.

To solve the problem, the first thing to do, he said, was to raise the level of domestic savings.

Dr Niphat said the public and the private sectors must change their

investment patterns and invest in such a way that would lead to lesser use of imported raw materials and products.

He blamed the Government for aggravating the problem of low domestic savings level.

He said the level of savings in the public sector was so low that the budget was in deficit and that state enterprises expand with foreign borrowings instead of their own incomes.

All these, he said, were the result of a low level of domestic savings.

Dr Niphat said Thailand's economy could grow at a rate of seven per cent if there was a flexible management of the baht exchange rate that would encourage exports; an increase of exports; higher levels of savings by both sectors of the economy; a reduction in the role of the Government and state enterprises by privatisation; and if there was development of small and medium-size industries.

● "Although Thailand today still enjoys sufficient natural and human resources which can be utilised to bring about national wealth and stability, we must know how best to use these resources properly so as not to waste them.

"Instead we should use these resources in the most economical manner based on known princi-

ples and logic, and with the aim of achieving the utmost benefits for the country both at present and in future."

NESDB Secretary-General Snoh Unakul, in his capacity as chairman of the TDRI's Board of Directors, was quoting the message delivered to the people by His Majesty the King on his birthday.

The reference to the King's message was the essential element of Dr Snoh's opening speech at the start of the TDRI conference on "National Resources Management".

Dr Snoh said that the efforts of TDRI coincides with His Majesty's wish to see more efficient and effective use of the country's resources.

The main objective of the conference is to disseminate new data and information for insight into the current situation and future direction of national development, he said.

Dr Snoh also explained that TDRI is concerned with four areas of activities:

- to carry out research,
- to build up research networks both at national and international levels,
- to become the centre of data and information which can be classified and retrieved systematically, and
- to disseminate the state-of-the-art information and research findings.

Meanwhile, Asia Foundation representative Allen Choate said that TDRI has met all the standards required to be an effective policy research centre.

He added that the structure and mandate

developed at TDRI can serve as a commendable model for new Thai policy institutions in the future.

"The success of TDRI lends weight to the concept of similar policy institutions being established in the political-social and international relations-foreign policy fields at some point in the future," he said.

He explained that for any institute to be an effective policy research centre it must satisfy the following criteria:

It must be independent of government in order to freely develop constructive options and contribute a variety of opinions and suggestions on policy directions.

The centre's leadership must have linkages and access to the higher echelons of public policy-making so that its findings and recommendations have influence.

The quality of its research and studies must be of the highest order and innovative in nature to command serious attention and consideration.

In order to earn respect and trust from both public and private sectors, the centre must be responsible in the direction of its work and constructive in its advice.

Lastly, the centre requires a firm and relatively united base of financial support in order to achieve an independent position.

"TDRI more than adequately meets all of these standards," he said.

Mr Choate stated his belief that research studies, conclusions and recommendations are only useful if they are put into the hands of policy-makers and disseminated to the interested general public.

/12379

CSO: 4200/238

PROSPECT OF OVERSEAS WORKERS' RETURN TROUBLES ECONOMISTS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Dec 86 pp 3

[Text]

Pattaya — Economists sounded the alarm yesterday and urged the Government to come up with ways to handle the 300,000 Thai workers who are likely to return home from the Middle East.

The construction projects they are working on are expected to end soon, they said.

Economics experts have gathered here at the Asia Pattaya Hotel for the Thailand Development Research Institute's year-end "Resources Management" conference.

The experts agreed that Thai workers in the Middle East, although poorly-educated, were skilled and were getting on-the-job training. They also send 25,000 million baht a year home to their families.

They warned that if nothing was done now unemployment would worsen when these workers start coming home in large numbers.

Rural people, mostly those in the 15-19 age group, are still flocking to the city in search of jobs. More would head for towns if agricultural prices fall, they said.

Urban problems, such as overcrowding and

water shortages have apparently failed to stop the flow of rural job-hunters to the city.

Unemployment among educated people, who look mainly to the Government for jobs, is also a problem, they said, because the state is limiting its hiring of civil servants. In the past, the Government recruited 65,000 people a year, but this fiscal year it will only offer about 16,000 jobs.

The conference recommended that the country's education system be reformed and improved to cope with these problems.

The economists said Thailand's secondary education system is 25 years behind that of South Korea.

They recommended that state funding of the university education system be reduced while assistance for secondary education is increased.

The experts expressed reservations about population control, saying that some schools in the North have had to close because of fewer pupils.

While population control has reduced the number of children, the number of old people has been increasing, they said.

/12379

CSO: 4200/238

JOB SEEKERS CONTINUE FLOODING INTO MALAYSIA

Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Dec 86 p 5

[Article by Thepchai Yong and Tulsathit Taptim]

[Text]

ITS the harvesting season in Malaysia — and the time for Thai workers to cash in on the demand for foreign labour in the neighbouring country.

Thousands of Thai workers are already flocking to the border areas waiting to cross into Malaysia to work in either paddy fields or sugarcane plantations. Many are assured of work permits by Malaysian authorities but others are victims of swindle.

Somboon Sriprommitr, chief of the provincial labour office of Songkhla, told *The Nation* that large numbers of Thai workers from the North and Northeast have been cheated by unscrupulous job placement agencies which in many cases are run by foreigners.

He said each of the workers was charged between 4,000-5,000 baht by the job placement agencies which promised them jobs with good pay in Malaysia.

But most would find out later that they were given no work permits and eventually find themselves working illegally in Malaysia — if they were lucky enough to be allowed past the border checkpoints. Many were stopped there because the passports issued for them by the job placement agencies were fake.

The Labour Department has estimated that about 10,000 Thai workers already crossed into Malaysia during the rainy season. They did so illegally by slipping into the country through jungle routes without any work permits.

The Immigration Department of Malaysia, meanwhile, was reported last week to have issued temporary

work permits for at least 2,200 Thai workers to work in sugarcane plantations in Kedah and Perlis, two Malaysian states near the Thai border.

Sugarcane plantations in Malaysia have to rely on Thai workers for years because of the reluctance of Malaysian workers to labour in the field.

The two states are reportedly experiencing their worst ever shortage of manpower which can only be relieved with the help of Thai workers.

The question of labour shortage aside, Malaysian employers also find it cheaper to hire Thai workers to work in their plantations. A spokesman of the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (MADA) of Malaysia said recently that the Thais normally charged about 450 baht per 0.3 hectare compared to about 650 baht charged by the local labour force.

The news of the Malaysian demand for extra labour travelled fast. In the past few months, job placement agencies and brokers have been busy recruiting Thai

workers from all parts of the country to go to Malaysia.

There are only two spots through which Thai workers can legally cross into Malaysia. Thai labour officials have tried with limited success to stem the illegal flow of Thai labour into the neighbouring country by setting up labour checkpoints in Padang Besar of Songkhla and in Narathiwat.

Somboon claimed that the two labour checkpoints succeeded in stopping hundreds of Thai workers from leaving the country because

they carried forged passports and failed to show their work permits.

But the majority of the workers avoid going through the checkpoints and instead trek through the jungles into Malaysia.

Job placement agencies have also found a way to circumvent the official regulation controlling the flow of labour. Instead of getting the workers their passports, they would supply them with border passes.

According to the immigration regulation, only villagers having lived in the border areas for a maximum of three months are entitled to the border passes which allow them to travel inside Malaysia for a maximum of seven days as tourists.

Once they enter Malaysia with the passes, they would simply disappear into paddy fields and sugarcane plantations to work.

And as some local authorities here pointed out, most of these people were in fact not local villagers. They were workers brought in from other parts of the country by job brokers who registered them in certain households.

One worker from Pathum Thani told *The Nation* that he and his friends had their household registration cards transferred from their hometown into a home of someone in Padang Besar.

"This is a method widely used to circumvent the regulation," an official noted.

Lured by promises of good pay, many Thai workers jump headlong with the brokers and found themselves either cheated or exploited once they were taken inside Malaysia.

Thai workers without work permit often live under constant fears of being discovered by the Malaysian authorities. Their Malaysian employers take the advantage of this particular weak point to the fullest by either

subjecting them to hard labour or reducing their wages. There is little protest from the Thai workers caught in this situation.

Somboon said some fraudulent Thai job brokers even collaborated with job placement agencies in Malaysia to exploit the Thai workers.

He said some of the job brokers even used his name in recruiting workers in the Northeast. He showed *The Nation* a letter from some workers inquiring him about a claim by some job placement firms that he was recruiting workers to work in a sugarcane plantation in Malaysia.

He said the officials at the two labour checkpoints will no longer be lenient with illegal passage of the workers. He admitted that in the past the officials were not very strict and tended to be sympathetic with the workers even when they did not possess proper travelling documents.

"In most cases, we know that these workers lie to us, saying they only want to visit their family members in Malaysia or to do some shopping," he said.

A senior official of Perlis State recently expressed concern over the use of forged documents in the light of the influx of Thai workers. His concern was also shared by the Perlis Immigration Department officials who said some Thai workers entered Malaysia with forged documents.

Nobody knows for certain how many Thais are working in paddy fields and sugarcane plantations in Malaysia. However, Thai workers usually do not stay very long and would return home once their jobs are finished.

Many are known to have gone back several times because of the attractive wages. Some admit that they mortgaged their own paddy fields back home in order to pay the brokers to work in the plantations in Malaysia.

MILITARY SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE, FIX GEAR

Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

THE Royal Thai Army is seeking to produce as much military equipment as possible and adopt cheaper but effective ways of maintaining the military gear in services, Assistant Army Chief-of-Staff for Logistics Lt Gen Kasem Sa-nguancharatsoornkrai said.

He was making the points in the context of the RTA's efforts to modernize and standardize its equipment with limited budget. His speech was delivered at the ongoing Eleventh Pacific Armies Management Seminar held at Dusit Thani Hotel.

Lt Gen Kasem said that most of the RTA equipment today is the MAP (military assistance programme) equipment from the United States. "Some equipment is more than 30 years old and many countries have already put this equipment as antique displays, in their museums. But the RTA still uses this equipment," he added.

He said that replacing the old equipment with the new ones would cost a lot of money and it would take many years to accomplish.

As a result, the RTA has resorted to ways of sustaining the durability of the equipment, said the senior army officer, who pointed out that spare part procurement posed a major difficulty with the Directorate of Logistics, which is in charge of the affairs.

He said that these spare parts could not be procured readily and easily from the

manufacturers and even if they could supply the spare parts, they were mostly expensive.

The RTA solved the problem by turning more and more to local suppliers for the same kind of the spare parts, he said.

Related RTA agencies, including the Research and Development Department and the Army Weapon Production Centre, have also launched programmes to develop the equipment so that it would not have to procure them from other countries or the weapon market, according to the assistant chief-of-staff.

"The RTA feels that this is one of the best ways that serves well for maintaining old equipment and also, it will be able to use them for many more years... Hopefully these programmes will be successful and the RTA will be able to put this equipment to good use in its units in one or two years," he said.

As for the procurement of sophisticated weapons and equipment which cannot be produced locally, the RTA places top priority on the equipment in the US army inventory, he said.

If these are not available in the US army inventory, the RTA will look to friends and procure equipment widely used by the ASEAN armies. These defence items are mainly radar, radio, automatic weapons and computerized equipment, according to Lt Gen Sa-nguancharatsoornkrai.

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CSO: 4200/238

BRIEFS

PREM RECEIVES WELL WISHERS--This morning Admiral Supha Khotchaseni, Supreme Commander, led commanders of the three armed forces, the police director general, and a group of military and police officers to call on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon at his Sisao residence to wish him a Happy New Year. The prime minister thanked the well wishers and said that he felt warm and confident to have received those who are determined to safeguard the country and are ready to sacrifice their lives for it. He also said we view the Armed Forces as an institution which is capable of stabilizing the country. This institution must be preserved so that it could stabilize the country by maintaining the monarchy, because we all are aware that without the monarchy there would be no [word indistinct] and that there would be no peace without the Armed Forces. The prime minister asked the well wishers to heed their majesties' kindness, show gratitude to the country in which they were born, and uphold righteousness and justice in order to consolidate these qualities into the power to maintain our nation. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 26 Dec 86] /8309

CSO: 4207/80

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SUPPORTS USSR 20 DECEMBER DECISION

BK221007 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0600 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Text] Phnom Penh, 22 Dec (SPK)--In a statement dated 20 December, the Government of the PRK approved the USSR's decision to scrap its moratorium on nuclear tests following the first nuclear blast that the United States conducts in 1987.

In the face of the extremely tense situation because of the U.S. arms race, the statement says, all of mankind must constantly focus on preserving world peace.

Together with the progressive and peace-loving forces, especially in a common effort with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, the PRK has worked tirelessly for the same goal of avoiding an eventual war. One of the concrete proofs is that the PRK has supported the Soviet decision to prolong until 1 January 1987 the moratorium on nuclear tests, decision, which shows the concern and responsibility of the USSR toward the destiny of mankind.

Moreover, the foreign policy of peace currently pursued by the USSR bears a historic significance. It is somehow reflected by the statement made by Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee during his recent visit to India: The USSR and India are unanimous in building factors leading to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The statement then condemns the Reagan administration for persisting in accelerating its arms race by continuing the Star Wars program and nuclear tests despite the peace initiatives of the USSR and peace demonstrations of the international community, including the call made in New Delhi by the six countries of various continents and the declaration of the Nonaligned Summit Conference in Harare.

Therefore, the statement stresses, by its war-mongering attitude, the Reagan administration has no sense of responsibility toward the destiny of mankind, nor for detente, peace, and international security.

After recalling the Soviet Government's statement dated 18 December 1986 indicating that the USSR is ready to continue observing its moratorium, but will resume nuclear tests immediately after the first nuclear blast undertaken by the United States in 1987, the statement stresses:

The PRK Government voices support for the decision and the position taken by the Government of the Soviet Union regarding its moratorium on nuclear tests, considering it as a realistic measure to protect mankind from the nuclear threat of the imperialists, including their ringleader the United States.

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CSO: 4219/10

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

BRIEFS

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED--Phnom Penh, 19 Dec (SPK)--A cooperation protocol between the KPRP and the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] was signed at Cambodia's embassy in Hanoi (Vietnam) yesterday, reported our correspondent. The signatories were Chan Seng, alternate member of the Political Bureau and vice chairman of the KPRP Central Committee's Control Commission, and Teka Toulou, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPE Central Committee and chairman of the Central Committee's Financial Control Commission. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0452 GMT 19 Dec 86 BK]

SAMRIN HOLDS TALKS IN HANOI--Phnom Penh, 18 Dec (SPK)--Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and head of the KPRP delegation to the Sixth CPV Congress, had talks in Hanoi on 16 December with Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, member of the Sandinist Front for National Liberation (FSLN) leadership and head of the FSLN delegation, our correspondent reported in a dispatch. General Secretary Heng Samrin expressed solidarity with the Nicaraguan people now struggling courageously against the U.S. imperialists who are not ceasing, on the one hand, to intensify their acts of aggression and, on the other, to incite groups of contras to sabotage the Nicaraguan revolution. He also informed his interlocutor of the real situation in Cambodia. On the same day, General Secretary Heng Samrin and his entourage laid a wreath at President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum. The Cambodian delegation visited the port city of Haiphong on 17 December. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0418 GMT 18 Dec 86 BK]

RETURNEES IN KOMPONG CHAM--Phnom Penh, 17 Dec (SPK)--Since the beginning of the year, 85 enemy soldiers have reported themselves to the revolutionary authorities of Kroch Chhma District, Kompong Cham Province, bringing with them 19 guns and some war materiel. The returnees recalled their miserable lives in the jungle and expressed their profound gratitude to the Cambodian party and state for showing clemency toward them. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0451 GMT 17 Dec 86 BK]

THAI VIOLATIONS REPORTED--Phnom Penh, 22 Dec (SPK)--During the week ending 20 December, Thai artillery fired 4,000 shells of various calibers on hill 127 northwest of Anlung Veng (Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey). During the same period, 15 reconnaissance flights by L-19, A-37, and F-5 aircraft were recorded 1 to 10 km inside Cambodian territory. At sea, the Thai Navy operated 217 times in the sectors located 16 nautical miles off the Cambodian islands of Kaoh Tang and Kaoh Tral [as received]. On the ground, the Polpotist remnants maintained

in Thailand carried out 57 incursions into Cambodian territory for sabotage purposes. They were intercepted by Cambodian border guards who put out of action 235 intruders and seized 104 guns and a quantity of other war materiel. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0557 GMT 22 Dec 86 BK]

KORN GREETES NEW FOREIGN MINISTER--Phnom Penh, 12 Dec (SPK)--Kong Korn, minister of foreign affairs of the PRK, sent warm greetings to Abdul Wakil on his appointment to the post of minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. After reaffirming the PRK's support for the just struggle waged by the fraternal Afghan people under the clear-sighted leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan led by Najibullah, Kong Korn wrote that he was convinced that the bonds of fraternal friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between Cambodia and Afghanistan will further strengthen for the common victory of the two peoples in the defense and socialist construction of their respective fatherlands advancing firmly toward socialism. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0412 GMT 12 Dec 86 BK]

CHHENG PHON IN CUBA--29 Nov (SPK)--Chheng Phon, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee and minister of information and culture, recently paid an official friendly visit to the Republic of Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban minister of culture. During his visit, among other activities, Minister Chheng Phon had a talk with Armando Hart, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Political Bureau and Cuban minister of culture, during which the two sides exchanged experiences in their area of activity, particularly on the essence of the second biennial festival which is taking place in Havana in conformity with Fidel Castro's initiative to turn the Cuban capital into a crossroads of all cultures of the three continents. After voicing his sympathy with the Cambodian people in their most painful difficulties, Armando Hart pledged to further stimulate cooperation between the two countries and to do his best to aid the PRK in conformity with the foreign policy of Cuba's Communist Party. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0435 GMT 29 Nov 86 BK]

OFFICIALS VISIT COMBATANTS--On the KUFNCD's eighth founding anniversary (2 December), a delegation of the party and front led by Ros Chhun, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee and general secretary of the front's National Council, visited war invalids in Kien Svay (Kandal). On the same occasion, two other delegations--one led by Men Chhan, member of Council of State and vice chairman of the front's National Council; and the other by Duong Savang, standing member of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions--visited hospitalized combatants in Phnom Penh. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0436 GMT 2 Dec 86 BK]

KOMPONG THOM RETURNEES--Phnom Penh, 5 Dec (SPK)--In Baray District, Kompong Thom Province, 130 misled persons, mostly Polpotists, came to the side of the revolution recently. These returnees, including a battalion commander and a company chief, brought with them 27 weapons and some other war materiel. During the first 10 months of this year, Kompong Thom Province has welcomed back 820 returnees. [Excerpts] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 1136 GMT 5 Dec 86 BK]

SRV, USSR GREET KORM--Phnom Penh, 13 Dec (SPK)--On the occasion he was nominated to post of foreign minister of the PRK, Kong Korm received warm congratulations from his Vietnamese and Soviet counterparts. In their messages, Nguyen Co Thach and Eduard Shevardnadze said they are convinced that diplomatic relations between Cambodia and their respective countries, Vietnam and the Soviet Union, will be further strengthened in favor of peace in Asia, the Pacific region, and in the world and in favor of socialism. They wished success to the new Cambodian minister of foreign affairs in carrying out the PRK's foreign policy of peace to contribute to heightening the PRK's prestige in the international arena. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0406 GMT 13 Dec 86 BK]

/9716

CSO: 4219/10

NGUYEN CO THACH INTERVIEWED ON KAMPUCHEA, PRC TALKS

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 8 Dec 86 p 146

[Interview with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach by DER SPIEGEL; date and place not specified: "There is no Spandau in Phnom Penh"]

[Text] [Question] Mr Minister, your country is one of the poorest countries of the world. Yet as long as Vietnam keeps its troops stationed in Kampuchea, the West refuses any economic aid. Is its economic distress Vietnam's own fault?

[Answer] That is purely a pretext, and a stupid pretext by the West. When the U.S. Army occupied Vietnam and destroyed our country, the West maintained good relations with the United States and also refused aid to Vietnam. No. Vietnam would like to have good relations with all countries of the world. But there is a worldwide conspiracy to isolate us politically and blockade us economically.

[Question] Today, 11 years after 35 years of war, the 60 million people in your country are not a bit better off. Is responsibility for people not more important than stubborn adherence to political principles?

[Answer] For the Vietnamese people, nothing is more precious than independence and peace.

[Question] It is for the Kampuchean people, also. How do you picture a solution of the Kampuchea problem?

[Answer] For the genocide by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge of the people of Kampuchea, the same could be said as for the Fascists in Germany after 1945. The same principles would have to be applied. Vietnamese troops will be withdrawn in 1990, even if no political solution has been found by then.

[Question] The opposition coalition "Democratic Kampuchea" between Prince Sihanouk, former Prime Minister Son Sann and the Khmer Rouge has proposed a joint transition government with the regime of Heng Samrin, supported by Vietnam. The condition: armistice and withdrawal of Vietnamese soldiers. Is that a negotiation proposal leading to a compromise?

[Answer] The other side demands the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, we [demand] the elimination of Pol Pot's clique. A fair compromise would have to combine both key positions. But the present proposal aims only at bringing Pol Pot back to Pnom Penh. If both demands are really the basis for negotiations, then everything can be arranged.

[Question] What do you mean by "elimination" of Pol Pot's "clique;" do you mean liquidate?

[Answer] No, not hanging or shooting.

[Question] Then what?

[Answer] That they cannot remain as those who govern, but only as criminals. If they want to do that, they go to prison. But they can also be summoned before a court anywhere else in the world, or go into exile in Beijing if they like Peking duck. There will be no Spandau in Pnom Penh.

[Question] Whom do you count among Pol Pot's "clique?" Are all Khmer Rouge to go into court, or only the top functionaries?

[Answer] The wisest policy would be to prosecute only the bosses and hold them responsible for their actions. Pol Pot's followers, if they distance themselves from his ideas, lay down their weapons and respect Kampuchea's constitution, could be accepted as normal citizens.

[Question] Your deputy at the United Nations in turn has expressed Vietnam's willingness to take up bilateral talks with China at any time, any place, and on any subject. When is the first meeting planned?

[Answer] Sooner or later, but the sooner the better. Only, China is like a big Pandora's box, and one must be prepared for all possibilities.

[Question] You sent a ping-pong team to China for competitions. Is that the start of a Chinese-Vietnamese ping-pong policy?

[Answer] It might be, and it might not. We are working at making headway on this point.

9917

CSO: 4620/6

AMITY GROUP MEETS WITH VISITING LAOTIAN LEADER KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN

BK231218 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] In Hanoi, capital of the SRV, on the evening of 16 December, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and head of the LPRP delegation to the Sixth CPV Congress, received a courtesy call from a Vietnamese-Lao Friendship Association delegation led by Comrade Hoang Truong Minh, chairman of the association. Accompanying Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihane were Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Somlat Chanthamat, member of the Secretariat of the party Central Committee; and Comrade Khamfeun Tounalom, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the LPDR to the SRV.

On this occasion, Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihane hailed the past positive activities of the Vietnamese-Lao Friendship Association as a significant contribution to the daily strengthening and fruitful development of the relations of special friendship, solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the two countries. The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of profound friendship.

/8309

CSO: 4206/41

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH LAOS VIEWED

OW282144 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 28--Vietnam will help Laos increase by half the annual capacity of its plaster mine at Dong Hen by the year 1990 and double it in the following years.

The mine, with an annual capacity of 100,000 tons, was designed and built with non-refund aid from Vietnam in the central Laos province of Savannakhet.

The Dong Hen mine, put into operation at the end of 1984, achieved its designed capacity last year.

A clinker-grinding section with a capacity of 10,000 tons a year was built in Vientiane with clinker from Vietnam's Bim Son cement plant to help reduce Laos' transportation expenses.

Vietnam has helped Laos design and plan the construction of a 30,000-population townshop at Lark Sao with some modern projects including a trading centre, a school and a guest house.

Over the past years, Vietnam's construction service has sent experts to Laos to help produce floor tiles and colour powder. Since 1984 the two countries have regularly made goods exchanges. Vietnam delivered to Laos 30 tons of equipment for tin-grinding machines and 300 tons of goods including cement roofing sheets, glazed tiles and other engineering construction products in exchange for plywood articles.

Vietnam also helps train cadres and workers for Laos besides sending experts and technical workers to Laos.

/8309

CSO: 4200/239

NGUYEN VAN LINH RECEIVES MORE FOREIGN GREETINGS

OW260823 Hanoi VNA in English 0713 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 26--Nguyen Van Linh, the new general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, has received messages of congratulations from:

--Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural;

--Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour;

--Mathieu (Ahmed) Kerekou, chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin, president of the People's Republic of Benin, head of state and president of the National Executive Council, and

--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and commander-in-chief of the Palestine Revolutionary Armed Forces.

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CSO: 4200/239

CUBA'S RISQUET ADDRESS AT CPV CONGRESS

BK291155 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Dec 86 p 7

[Speech by Cuban delegation head Jorge Risquet Valdes, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, at the Sixth CPV Congress in Hanoi; date not given]

[Text] I would like to express the great honor and elation of the Cuban delegation for being able to come to President Ho Chi Minh's heroic country and make today's address to you--the worthy delegates of the CPV--at this, the sixth congress of your party.

I would like to convey to you, comrades, and the Vietnamese people, the warm greetings of our communist party and people, and particularly, a tight hand shake from Comrade Fidel Castro.

This historic congress is taking place in an atmosphere of profound self-criticism and criticism. It is, at the same time, an event of revolutionary affirmation where you have once again stressed the traditions of solidarity, staunchness, and combativity. Those virtues enabled the CPV to lift the revolution to victory and make it today a steady standard bearer of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and of proletarian internationalism for peace, national independence, and socialism.

We remember with immense emotion the glorious pages of history written with the blood and courage of the best sons and daughters of the Vietnamese people in smashing the yoke of the French colonial regime and then inflicting a humiliating defeat on the arrogant U.S. imperialists. Nowadays, once again, you are foiling the enemy's acts of aggression against your beloved motherland.

Following its liberation and unification through one of the greatest armed exploits of the 20th century, to demonstrate that all nations would be able to achieve victory if they knew how to fight fearlessly, Vietnam helped the Cambodian people who were victimized by the genocidal Pol Pot regime, a regime not unlike the one experienced by the Polish people under Nazism.

This is mainly what has convinced us that in the face of new and complicated tasks aimed at renovating the economic structure and management mechanism in order to use the country's latent potentials to the maximum extent, the party and diligent people of Vietnam will certainly advance regardless of difficulties and will build a Vietnam 10 times more beautiful as expected by the immortal Ho Chi Minh.

We will return to our country with a firm conviction that under the CPV's clear-sighted leadership and the resolute support of the Vietnamese people, nothing and no one can divert you from the path that you have selected.

Peace, which is necessary in order to concentrate our effort on today's development tasks for the sake of our people's happiness, is being seriously threatened by the aggressive and adventurous policy of the U.S. Government and its war-like ambitions as well as its illusionary dream of military superiority. This has led to the most frantic arms race in history.

With extreme irresponsibility, Reagan is stubbornly organizing "Star Wars" aimed at threatening life on earth from outer space.

At this dangerous juncture when mankind is threatened by nuclear disaster, we highly value the responsible, resolute, and cool-headed policy of the Soviet Union. We reassert our total support for Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals to eliminate nuclear weapons in the remaining years of this century. We welcome Comrade Gorbachev's proposals at the Reykjavik meeting and highly value the good will of the Soviet Union to unilaterally prolong the moratorium on nuclear tests.

This dangerous situation caused by the arms race has led to a huge waste of economic resources and has brought the issue of foreign debt to an alarming level. These debts are the consequences of the cruel exploitative policy imposed by the imperialist powers on nations of the Third World. Foreign debt is becoming a political issue originating from an outdated, forcible, and irrational order that prevails in international economic relations. To cope with these debts, as our commander-in-chief, Comrade Fidel Castro, has proven several times, there is no other measure than abolishing all these debts, establishing a new international economic order, and seeking measures to promote economic cooperation among nations.

We wholeheartedly support the correct peaceful policy of the Vietnamese party and government which is aimed at achieving a peaceful solution through negotiation with the ASEAN countries and all other regional countries on the basis of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty without interference in each other's internal affairs. We support the Indochinese countries' stand stipulated in the communique of the 13th conference of Indochinese foreign ministers which expresses the desire of restoring the traditional friendship with the Chinese people.

Our country has always earnestly desired peace. Over the past quarter of a century, however, we have had to be permanently vigilant against blockade, threats, and aggressive acts by the U.S. imperialists. Nevertheless, between life and death, we have turned ourselves into an inviolable fortress against all enemies.

Along with implementing our national defense duty, we are working positively to correct mistakes and shortcomings in order to enhance management efficiency, provide economic leadership and make the ideological education of the Cuban people more profound.

In performing our difficult yet beautiful revolutionary tasks, we have always received the solidarity and helping hands of the Soviet friends, all other countries in the socialist community, and all peace- and justice-loving forces in the world. Among the manifestations of such solidarity, always shining is the solidarity which the brothers, government, and glorious Communist Party of Vietnam have shown us. Please accept here our boundless gratitude.

We wish you, comrades, the most complete success in implementing the resolutions to be adopted at this Sixth Party Congress. We are proud of the friendly, frank, profound, and brilliant relations that bind our two parties and we pledge to continue the struggle in the future to tighten these relations which nothing can break.

/8309

CSO: 4209/198

RCP MESSAGE TO SIXTH CPV CONGRESS

AU231118 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 18 Dec 86 p 6

[Report on "Message of Greetings by the RCP Central Committee" to the proceedings of the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, held in Hanoi 17 December]

[Text] Hanoi, 17 Dec (AGERPRES)--During the Wednesday meeting of the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], Comrade Ion Coman, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee, extended on behalf of the RCP and its secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, and on behalf of the Communists and all our people, warm revolutionary greetings to the delegations, together with wishes for complete success to the proceedings of the high forum of the Vietnamese Communists.

As close friends, the speaker said, we convey warm congratulations to the Communists and all Vietnamese people for the successes attained in the society's revolutionary transformation, in building the material-technical base of socialism, and in the homeland's socioeconomic development, as well as wishes for success in fulfilling the tasks your congress is to adopt.

The leader of the RCP delegation recalled the positive relations of friendship and militant solidarity between the RCP and the CPV which were very obvious in the period of the struggle against colonialism and imperialist aggression, and which in the years of socialist construction went through and continue to go through a positive development at a political, economic, scientific-technical, and cultural level. We express the firm conviction that, by acting together and on the basis of understandings agreed upon during summit meetings in Bucharest and Hanoi, relations between the RCP and CPV and between Romania and Vietnam will continue to develop in the interest of and to the benefit of our peoples and the cause of socialism and peace throughout the world.

The Communists and all Romanian people, closely united with the RCP and its secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, are currently carrying out extensive activity aimed at commendably implementing the 13th RCP Congress decisions and the program for building the comprehensively developed socialist society and for Romania's advance toward communism, the speaker said, adding:

In our overall activity to implement the 13th RCP Congress decisions we place stress on intensively developing the economy, on achieving a new agrarian revolution, and on thus ensuring the preconditions for achieving better quality in work and life for all our people. The RCP also pay particular attention to constantly deepening workers revolutionary democracy and continuously perfecting the framework of the masses' broad and direct participation in leading the society, and in formulating and implementing the domestic and foreign policy of our party and state.

Under the current international circumstances which are particularly complex and serious, the RCP believes that the basic problem is to halt the arms race and achieve disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament, and ensure the people's right to peace and life, the leader of our party delegation stressed.

Socialist Romania is acting with all its power to eliminate all nuclear weapons from Europe and throughout the world, to bring about a cessation of nuclear testing, prevent the militarization of outer space, and to radically reduce conventional arms, troops, and military expenditures.

Our country supports the proposals by the Soviet Union on a 50-percent cut in strategic nuclear arms and the total elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe, in the belief that an important step toward proceeding to tangible measures for disarmament could be achieved through a 25-percent cut in conventional weapons, troops, and military expenditures by 1990, as the socialist countries proposed at the Budapest meeting of June 1986.

Romania's recent initiative, the speaker continued, which in the wake of a national referendum decided on a 5-percent cut in arms, troops, and military expenditures beginning with this year, is part of parcel of the program-appeal of the socialist countries designed to ensure the beginning of a real process of disarmament.

Romania acts to strengthen trust and positive cooperation in the Balkans, and to turn this area into a zone of peace and cooperation, without nuclear and chemical weapons. Our country also favors the creation of such zones in the center and north of Europe, and on other continents in the world.

We firmly struggle to halt any military conflicts, to solve all disputes between states--no matter how difficult they may be--solely by peaceful means and negotiations, and by fully renouncing the use or threat of force. We are deeply convinced that only on conditions of peace can the socioeconomic development goals of all peoples in the world be achieved.

Romania believes that efforts must be intensified to eliminate underdevelopment and establish a new international economic order.

Stressing then that our country is paying particular attention to relations with all socialist countries and to strengthening their unity, and that it acts to optimally fulfill the understandings concluded at the summit economic meeting of the CEMA member-states and the provisions of the

Comprehensive Program for Promoting Scientific and Technical Progress, the speaker stressed that Romania is also strengthening relations of cooperation and solidarity with the developing countries, and is expanding relations with all states in the world, irrespective of social systems. Romania bases all its relations consistently on the principles of full equality of rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, mutual advantage, complete renunciation of the use or threat of force, and respect for each people's right to free development, without any outside interference.

The RCP is consistently [word indistinct] to strengthen cooperation and solidarity with all communist and workers parties, with the socialist and social-democratic parties, and with other parties and democratic and progressive organizations, with anti-imperialist forces everywhere in the struggle to achieve disarmament, the peoples' socioeconomic progress, and the triumph of peace and reason on our planet.

In conclusion, the RCP delegation leader extended wishes for complete success in implementing the decisions that will be adopted by the congress and in the activity devoted to progress and the well-being of the friendly Vietnamese people, and the general cause of socialism and peace.

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CSO: 2700/96

DPRK DELEGATE SPEAKS AT PARTY CONGRESS

BK290630 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 18 Dec 86 p 6

[Speech delivered by Kim Yong-chae, head of the WPK delegation, at the 16 December morning session of the Sixth CPV Congress]

[Text] First, allow me, on behalf of the WPK Central Committee, to express my warmest greetings to the Sixth CPV Congress and extend to you, comrade delegates, and through you to the communists and people of Vietnam, the greetings from the communists and people of Korea.

Right from the early days, when it was just founded, and through a long period of time, the CPV has led the Vietnamese people's difficult struggle for national salvation against imperialism and the Americans and eventually has been able to terminate the colonialist domination by the imperialists in Vietnam, thereby achieving national unification and regaining total independence for its fatherland.

This is the result of the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people who did not balk at making sacrifices and who struggled heroically for the cause of national liberation and independence.

After the country was unified, the CPV persistently led a struggle for stabilizing the people's lives and socialism on a national scale.

As a special gesture to welcome the Sixth CPV Congress, the Vietnamese people launched a boisterous socialist labor emulation movement to fulfill their tasks in the first year of the Fourth 5-Year Plan and they have attained new successes.

We wish the Vietnamese people success in pushing socialist construction vigorously forward in accordance with new guidelines charted at your sixth party congress.

In the past, under the clear-sighted leadership of our great leader, Comrade Kim Il-song, and under the difficult situation in which our country is in a state of partition and is directly confronted by U.S. imperialism, the arch-international reactionary, our party and people have successfully carried out the socialist revolution in various stages, positively built socialism, and

through this, turned our country into a socialist country which is independent politically and self-sufficient economically and is capable of taking care of its own self defense.

Imperialist and reactionary forces, together with U.S. imperialists, are attempting to reverse this trend of historical development in order to regain the position they have lost. They are intensively increasing their schemes of military aggression and are openly speaking out their ambition of destroying socialism by means of a military superiority. They are intensifying the production and deployment of their nuclear weapons through their adventurous "Star Wars" program under which they are attempting to bring the arms race to space.

With their ambition of achieving global supremacy, the U.S. imperialists are trying to turn Asia into a theater of military-political dispute with socialism. They are intensifying the arming of themselves in the region with nuclear arms while pressing for the formation in Asia of a new, NATO-type military bloc, the axis of which being the tripartite U.S.-Japanese-South Korean military alliance. This alliance has constantly conducted many large-scale military exercises similar to those nuclear war games conducted in South Korea, Japan, and other nearby regions.

As a result, the situation in Asia and in the Korean peninsula has become all the more tense. Peace and security in Asia are being placed under serious threat.

Today, a new war, no matter where it takes place, can easily go beyond its geographical scope and can turn into a hot, world nuclear war. Thus, a horrific nuclear catastrophe can befall upon mankind at any time.

In opposition to the U.S. imperialists' war-like policy, the WPK and the people of Korea are launching a vehement struggle aimed at easing tension in Asia and the Korean peninsula, preserving peace, and resolving the question of achieving national unification in Korea through peaceful means.

We have put forth many constructive and reasonable proposals for achieving national unification through peaceful and self-reliant means, including the proposal for the setting up of a Federal Democratic Republic of Korea. Particularly, this year we have proposed negotiations between military leaders and put forth a peace proposal for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear arms-free zone of peace.

Clearly aware of its lofty mandate toward the nation and for the sake of the socialist undertaking and of world peace, the WPK will try its best to struggle to ease tension in the Korean peninsula, resolve the question of national unification through peaceful and self-reliant means and to unite with all the progressive forces in the world to struggle persistently for the sake of peace and independence in Asia and for turning Asia into a zone free from aggression and war.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the communist party and people of Vietnam for the support and solidarity they have given to our people's struggle for achieving national unification through peaceful and self-reliant means.

I am convinced that the friendship between our two nations, which has been consolidated during the common struggle against imperialism, will continue to flourish in the interests of the common struggle against imperialism for socialism.

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CSO: 4209/198

RADIO REPORTS SWAPO ENVOY SPEECH AT CONGRESS

BK300929 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Speech by South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, Chief Delegate Obes Tulina, secretary of the SWAPO Central Committee, at the Sixth CPV Congress--recorded]

[Text] For SWAPO of Namibia, it is a great honor for the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam to have extended an invitation for here to participate in the deliberations of this important party congress. This has demonstrated once more the high regard in which the Communist Party of Vietnam holds the just struggle of the Namibian people led by their vanguard movement, SWAPO of Namibia, against the South African racist colonial occupation and against the U.S. imperialist blockade [words indistinct] independence by Namibia [words indistinct] the UN Security Council Resolution 435.

The overwhelming hospitality with which the SWAPO delegation was received in the (?past) by the party and by the people of this very beautiful and promising capital of Hanoi has made a lasting impression on us, and it is another living testimony to Vietnamese heartfelt solidarity, sentiments, with the struggling people of Namibia. You, the Vietnamese people, led by your party of the Great Ho Chi Minh is an admirable people. You command the respect from and enjoy support of all the progressive and peace-loving forces of the world. You have stood your ground throughout your trying history. You, your invincible heroism, has made the giants of that imperialist America to run out of Vietnam in total panic. We salute you, the defenders of socialism on the soil of Vietnam. [applause]

I have the urge here to echo the deep feeling of pride that only a day before yesterday the Prize of Ho Chi Minh Order was decorated on our president on behalf of the struggling people of Namibia by the president, Romesh Chandra, of the World Peace Council.

We feel very proud to be associated with the victorious people of Vietnam. The path ahead is arduous and long. Your struggle in the current period of transition to socialism bypassing capitalist development is fraught with dangers, posed by the multifaceted war of sabotage and destabilization conducted by the U.S. imperialism. Yet, there is no doubt that guided and illuminated by the clear, profound conviction of the victory of socialism over the dark forces of capitalism and reaction which have subjected you to many untold sufferings, you will, as usual, emerge victorious. This is the wish of the Namibian people to this congress.

The people of Namibia led by SWAPO, the sole authentic representative toward the aspirations of the Namibian people, have drawn courage and inspiration from the Vietnamese victory toward our country, Namibia. Blinded by its lust for making profits over human life and attempting to save the capitalist system of colonialism, in its death throes, the United States in collusion with racist Pretoria has resorted to brutal state terrorism against the innocent people of Namibia, killing them off every day. It has also resorted to overt and sophisticated covert methods of plotting against progressive governments, newly freed or newly free countries such as our fraternal People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique in order to restore its antipeople world hegemony.

But, SWAPO is strengthened in the knowledge that, based on the indestructible principles of Marxist-Leninist-international proletarian solidarity, Angola under the MPLA-Workers Party [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] and Mozambique under the Frelimo Party [Mozambique Liberation Front] will successfully withstand the U.S. imperialist plots and will continue to support the struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa.

As of now, we demand an immediate end to the apartheid illegal occupation of our motherland and the cessation of Western collaboration with Pretoria, and we (?mobilize) for the imposition of effective, binding sanctions against the racist criminal regime which is being propped up by the Reagan administration and the Thatcher government.

Dear Comrades, there is no doubt in our mind that the Namibian cause is enjoying considerable support and goodwill throughout the world, above all, in the socialist countries spearheaded by the valiant Soviet Union. We are extremely thankful for all that, but we are also at the same time requesting for the continued solidarity so that we can fight effectively until final victory. Furthermore, I would like to repeat our solidarity with the heroic people of Vietnam who continuously face the threats organized and financed by the U.S. 'imperialism. It is our sincere wish that the valiant people of Vietnam, led by the Communist Party of Vietnam, will be oversuccessful in fulfilling the tasks that are set by this party congress in order to advance the country's socialist economy to a new stage and to strengthen the capabilities of defending their national territory and so to help ensure people's peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

/8309

CSO: 4200/239

AFGHAN NEWSPAPER ACCLAIMS CPV CONGRESS

OW270821 Hanoi VNA in English 0729 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 27—"The Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam is an important event in the Vietnamese people's political life and in the CPV's glorious history. With this congress, the international prestige of Vietnam, a staunch fighter in the struggle for peace and national independence, has been further heightened."

This commentary comes from an article entitled "Peace and Socialism in Southeast Asia," published recently by the Kabul NEW TIMES of Afghanistan.

The article says:

"Vietnam is an active member of the non-aligned movement. It has helped change the balance of strategic movement. In Southeast Asia in favour of the revolutionary forces, a peaceful, independent and socialist Vietnam is marching forward. The resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress will endow the Vietnamese people with new strength and energy to advance forward along the road of peace, national independence democracy and socialism."

/8309

CSO: 4200/239

BRIEFS

USSR ARTS COOPERATION--Hanoi VNA Dec 30--Minutes of a program for plastic arts cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union for the 1987-88 period were signed in Moscow Monday. Signatories were Nguyen Quan, member of the Secretariat of the Vietnamese Plastics Arts Workers' Association, and O.V. Butkevich, secretary of the leadership of the Union of Painters of the USSR. Speaking at the signing ceremony, O.V. Butkevich wished his Vietnamese colleagues ever bigger success in their creative labour, thus making worthy contributions to socialist development in Vietnam. In reply, Nguyen Quan thanked the Union of Painters of the USSR for its assistance to Vietnamese plastic arts workers. He expressed the hope that the activities of the two associations in the next two years will be focussed on the two significant events of the two countries: The 70th anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution and the 10th Anniversary of the Vietnam-USSR Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 30 Dec 86 OW] /8309

ASSISTANCE TO LAOS--Hanoi, VNA Dec 27--A paper mill and a sugar mill have been built in Vientiane with assistance from its Vietnamese sisterly province of Hai Hung. The paper mill, built in Phon Hong District, has an annual capacity of processing 3,000 cubic metres of timber. The sugar mill, built in Pak Chang District, is capable of turning out 300 tons of sugar a year. Hanoi has sent a number of machine tools and equipment as aid to a farming tools enterprise in Vientiane. The aid, worth 2 million kip (Lao currency), includes a furnace for cast iron, three lathes and several other metal cutting machines. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0657 GMT 30 Dec 86 OW] /8309

CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR LEAVES--Hanoi, VNA Dec 20--Czechoslovak Ambassador Bohuslav Handl, left here today, ending his mission in Vietnam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 20 Dec 86 OW] /8309

COURSE FOR CAMBODIAN STUDENTS--Hanoi, VNA Dec 27--A three-month Vietnamese language course for 32 Kampuchean students has been closed in the Ho Chi Minh City University. The course, the third of its kind held in the city for students from the Phnom Penh University, was organized in furtherance of an agreement between the Vietnamese Ministry of Secondary Vocational and Higher Education and the Kampuchean Ministry of Higher Education. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT 27 Dec 86 OW] /8309

GREETINGS FROM ETHIOPIA--Hanoi VNA Dec 25--Nguyen Van Linh has received more congratulations from leaders of fraternal parties across the world on his election as general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The congratulatory messages came from Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Ethiopian Workers' Party. Chairman of the provisional military administrative council and commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Ethiopia; and Col Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Congolese Party of Labour, president and prime minister of the Republic of Congo, and chairman of the Organization of the African Unity (OAU). [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 25 Dec 86] /8309

CAMBODIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES--Hanoi VNA Dec 23--A delegation of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defence led by Men Chhan, vice president of the front, arrived here today for a visit at the invitation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee. It was welcomed at the airport by Nguyen Van Tien, member of the Presidium and secretary general of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and Kampuchean ambassador Tep Henn. It was later warmly received by Huynh Tan Phat, president, and other members of the Presidium of the VFF CC. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 23 Dec 86] /8309

SOVIET SAILORS DECORATED--Hanoi VNA Dec 27--Seven sailors of the Soviet freighter "Izvestiya" were awarded the title "Honorary Citizens" of Ho Chi Minh City and the "Izvestiya" was offered the certificate of merit by the people's committee of the city. These decorations were made in recognition of their big contributions to helping Vietnam develop its economy and further consolidating the Vietnamese-Soviet friendship. The freighter's first consignment to Vietnam was made in 1979. Since then, it has shipped more than 300,000 [metric] tons of goods from the Soviet Union to Vietnam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 27 Dec 86 BK] /8309

HABASH, BENJEDID GREETINGS--Hanoi, VNA Dec 28--General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh elected at the recent 6th Party Congress has received congratulations from George Habash, general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 28 Dec 86] /8309

NEPAL ANNIVERSARY--Hanoi VNA Dec 28--State Council President Truong Chinh and chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong have cabled their greetings to King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah and Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh Shrestha on the 36th national day of the Kingdom of Nepal (Dec 28). On this occasion, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has also sent his greetings to his Nepalese counterpart, Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0701 GMT 28 Dec 86] /8309

COCONUT AGREEMENT WITH USSR--A contract on coconut tree planting in 1987-90 period and the following years has been signed between Vietnam's southernmost province of Minh Hai and the Soviet Union. Under this contract, investment shall be made in the intensive farming of the already planted 34,000 hectares of coconut farms, and products shall be sold to the Soviet Union. Later on, the Soviet Union will invest in the growing of another 34,000 hectares of coconut trees. As from the 6th year of the contract, Minh Hai Province shall deliver 40 percent of the products to the Soviet Union and sell it another 40 percent. Under this contract, the Soviet Union will have to train technical workers from Minh Hai in the Soviet Union. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Dec 86 BK] /8309

MEETING WITH KAMPUCHEAN NEWSMEN--The Vietnamese Embassy in Phnom Penh last Saturday held a cordial meeting with Kampuchea newsmen to inform them about the results of the Sixth National Congress of the CPV. On this occasion, the Vietnamese charge d'affaires to Kampuchea sincerely thanked Kampuchea's mass media for its timely and detailed report on the developments of the congress. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Dec 86 BK] /8309

GREETINGS TO SUDAN--Hanoi VNA Dec 31--President of the State Council Truong Chinh and chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong today sent greetings to their Sudanese counterparts, respectively Ali al-Mirghani, and Sadiq al-Mahdi, on the 41st independence day of Sudan (Jan. 1). Both messages wish the friendship between the two peoples further development. On this occasion, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has also sent greetings to his Sudanese counterpart, Sharif Zayn al-Abidin al-Hindi. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT 31 Dec 86] /8309

GREETINGS TO CUBA--Hanoi VNA Dec 31--Vietnamese leaders today extended congratulations to Fidel Castro Ruz on his re-election as president of both the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba. The congratulatory message, jointly signed by State Council President Truong Chinh and chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong, said: "We are convinced that under the clear-sighted leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers headed by you, the Cuban people will overcome trials and hardships and record still greater success in the implementation of the resolution adopted at the 3d CPC Congress, steadily continuing their cause of socialist construction." [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT 31 Dec 86] /8309

CUBAN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT GREETED--Hanoi VNA Dec 31--Chairman of the National Assembly Nguyen Huu Tho today extended his congratulations to Flavio Bravo Pardo on his re-election as president of the National Assembly of Cuba. Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho said in his message: "I wish you good health and still greater achievements in your noble mission. May the militant solidarity, friendship and fraternal cooperation between our two peoples and national assemblies be consolidated and developed finely with every passing day." [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 31 Dec 86] /8309

CONGRATULATIONS RECEIVED--Hanoi VNA Dec 31--The newly-elected general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Nguyen Van Linh, has received more congratulations from leaders of fraternal parties in the world. They are from Mohammad Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee; Chadli Benjedid, secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party-f.l.n. and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; and Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0716 GMT 31 Dec 86] /8309

FRENCH DELEGATION VISITS HOSPITAL--On the occasion of its participation in the Sixth National Congress of the CPV, this afternoon, 17 December, the delegation of the French Communist Party led by Comrade (Maxim Gremec), Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee, visited the Saint Paul Hospital in Hanoi. Those comrades in charge of the Saint Paul Hospital briefed the delegation of the French Communist Party on the activities of the hospital in caring for the health of cadres, workers, civil servants, and the people in the capital, as well as on the assistance given to the hospital by the French Government and people and some organizations such as (SAFEL) [expansion unknown] and (SPS) [expansion unknown]. The comrade members of the delegation toured various branches and wards of the hospital and chatted with its patients. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Dec 86] /8309

KEMPNY, DELEGATION ATTEND RECEPTION--The Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam ended in Hanoi today. At the conclusion of the congress the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee gave a reception in honor of foreign delegations. Present at the reception was a delegation of the CPCZ, led by Josef Kempny, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and chairman of the Czech National Council. [Excerpts] [Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 18 Dec 86] /9599

KEMPNY VISIT, AGREEMENT SIGNED--Vietnam--The Czechoslovak party delegation headed by Josef Kempny, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and chairman of the Czech National Council, which attended the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, visited the port city of Haiphong today. During the delegation's visit, an agreement was signed on party cooperation between the North Moravian Regional Party Committee in Ostrava and the City Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam in Haiphong. The agreement envisages an exchange of delegations and the intensification and expansion of mutual cooperation between enterprises and institutions of the sister cities. [Text] [Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 19 Dec 86] /9599

CSO: 2400/99

CONGRESS COMMITTEE HOSTS SPECIAL GUESTS AT SOCIAL GATHERING

BK281550 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 CMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] On the occasion of the Sixth Party Congress, the Congress Organizing Committee held a get-together in Hanoi on the evening of 14 December for 85 veteran revolutionary cadres, personages, intellectuals, members of various political parties, writers, artists, representatives of families of war martyrs who had rendered meritorious services to the fatherland throughout the country, and representatives of overseas Vietnamese.

Among the participants were many well-known dignitaries such as Hoang Quoc Viet, honorary chairman of the VFF Central Committee; Bui Khuan, 92, one of the leaders of the peasantry in Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province, in the struggle against feudalism and imperialism; Hoang Thi Ai, 82, a member of the Nghe Tinh Soviet movement; and Giang Thi Nga, 72, a native of Cu Chi District, Ho Chi Minh City, whose husband and five sons had given up their lives for the revolutionary cause. Also on hand were representatives of various mining areas, Zone 5, the Tan Trao and Ba To war zones, and so forth.

On behalf of the Congress Organizing Committee, Comrades Le Duc Thinh, director of the party Central Committee Finance and Administration Department, and Nguyen Dinh Huong, deputy director of the party Central Committee Organization Department, extended their wishes for good health and conveyed the regards of the congress to the guests' families.

/8309

CSO: 4209/198

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES GREET CONGRESS SUCCESS

BK241130 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Yesterday, the Voice of Vietnam continued to receive reports from various localities reflecting their spirit in labor emulation drives launched to greet the success of the Sixth Party Congress and to successfully implement its resolution.

According to a Voice of Vietnam correspondent's report, last night, 19 December, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU] of Hanoi held a meeting to greet the success of the Sixth National Party Congress. Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi Municipal party committee, attended.

The meeting began with a parade of representatives of the children in the capital, youths of the armed forces, soldiers, and public security forces, as well as representatives of the HCMCYU members and youths in the Hoan Kiem and Hai Ba Trung wards, the forces of young volunteers for the building of new economic zones in Hanoi, and so forth. Comrade Tran Van Tan, member of the Hanoi municipal party committee and secretary of the Hanoi HCMCYU, informed the audience of the successful results of the Sixth National Party Congress and read a report on the program of action for youths in the capital who were resolved to implement the resolution of the congress. The report pointed out that more than 40,000 youths have fulfilled the 1986 plan ahead of schedule and that young people have completed more than 7,000 projects, earning for the state tens of millions of dong.

On this occasion, nearly 2,000 youths and teenagers representing 1.3 million young people in the capital sent a letter of resolve to the party Central Committee, promising to:

1. Continue to bring into play the role of revolutionary assault youths, overcome all difficulties, compete with one another in carrying out productive labor, practicing economization, studying, and working, and contribute to the efforts of the armed forces and people in firmly maintaining political security and public order and safety in the capital;
2. Step up the revolutionary emulation movement to contribute to implementing the three programs set forth by the party congress, namely the programs of grain and foodstuffs, consumer goods, and exports;

3. Satisfactorily carry out political education and ideological work among HCMCYU members to enable them to gain a correct understanding of the two strategic tasks of the revolution in our country at present, that is, to successfully build socialism and firmly defend the socialist fatherland;

4. Do a good job of organizing the HCMCYU and the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenagers Unit and rallying young people. In the immediate future, efforts will be concentrated on guiding HCMCYU basic units in holding their congresses on schedule and advancing toward convening the Hanoi Municipal HCMCYU congress, and so forth.

The meeting closed with a program of artistic and sports shows staged by youths in the capital to greet the success of the Sixth National Party Congress.

Also in Hanoi, the Railway General Department held a meeting yesterday afternoon to greet the success of the Sixth National Party Congress of delegates. Comrade Nguyen Van Tu, alternate member of the party Central Committee and general director of the department, on behalf of the delegates of the railway sector to the congress, made a report on the great results of the congress. He stressed in particular the new workstyle, the spirit of struggle in criticism and self-criticism, and the determination to effect renovation of the congress and the party Central Committee.

The participants in the meeting were happy to report to the party Central Committee the efforts of cadres, workers, and employees of the railway sector in the past in completely fulfilling the 1986 State Plan, exceeding the targets for passenger and freight transportation. The level of safety and punctuality in train operations surpassed that of 1985 despite the fact that the sector had to restore hundreds of kilometers of railroads of the western route and the Thong Nhat route damaged by storms and floods.

The participants at the meeting adopted a letter of resolve addressed to the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, promising to do their utmost to fulfill the 1987 State Plan in the first month and first quarter. In the immediate future, they will strive to provide good service to commuters on the occasion of the lunar new year festival in accordance with the slogan "Safety, Punctuality, and Good Service."

In Haiphong, cadres, workers, and employees of the Bach Dang shipyard have kept their promise. On the morning of 19 December, nearly 3,000 of them held a meeting to greet the success of the Sixth Party Congress and to safely launch a freighter of 1,000-metric-tons capacity named BACH DANG 14. This was the eighth ship of the same type built by the shipyard to meet the needs for coastal transportation of the communications and transportation sector in various localities. Owing to effective labor organization, within only 45 days the shipyard managed to complete 70 percent of assembly and installation work in building the freighter in its dry dock, with the quality of the new ship exceeding that of the previous one also built here.

For its part, the agricultural sector recently launched a movement entitled "1987 Tet of Tree Planting To Show Eternal Gratitude to Uncle Ho" to record achievements in honor of the success of the Sixth National Party Congress and to begin in good time the implementation of the congress resolution concerning the cultivation and preservation of the country's forest asset. In 1986, the first year of the implementation of the Fourth 5-Year Plan, despite the many difficulties regarding weather, capital, materials, prices, and so forth, our entire country grew 168,100 hectares of forests and other 425.5 million scattered trees, a feat attributable to the efforts to bring into play the basic units' right to autonomy in production and business and to satisfactorily carry out the motto "The state and people work together, the central level and localities work together."

On 18 December, all cadres, workers, and employees of the Lap Thach factory site in Vinh Phu Province held a ceremony to report achievements scored in honor of the glorious party. They reported a piece of good news: As of 20 November the forestry site had completely fulfilled the 1986 plan 40 days ahead of schedule, had grown 373 hectares of new forests, and had tended another 892 hectares of forests. The quality of tree planting of the forestry site was the best of the entire forestry sector in Vinh Phu Province. Aside from its afforestation efforts, the Lap Thach forestry site also built 300 square meters of residential houses to improve the living standards of its cadres and workers. To greet the success of the party congress and to respond to the movement of Tet of tree planting to show gratitude to Uncle Ho in 1987, the forestry site has launched a new emulation drive to produce 600,000 saplings of good quality to support the plan for growing 350 hectares of forests during the spring of 1987.

In An Giang Province, various grass-roots units are mobilizing power pumps to quickly irrigate the fields, thus making it possible for the planting of winter-spring rice to begin. Phu Tan and Phu Chau Districts are relying on their systems of canals and trenches to water the fields to ensure a successful harvest for the 40,000 hectares of winter-spring high-yield rice intended for export. As of mid-December 1986, the entire province had planted 25,380 hectares of winter-spring rice. Cho Moi District set the pace for the entire province by growing 9,290 hectares of rice. Along with stepping up winter-spring rice cultivation, various districts have consolidated their crop protection network and have signed crop protection contracts with cooperatives and production collectives. In the entire province, 2,200 hectares of winter-spring rice were affected by harmful insects and diseases. Various grass-roots units have saved 660 hectares and are continuing to contain and exterminate the pests in the remaining area. The province has provided various grass-roots units with 18,840 metric tons of chemical fertilizer and 480 metric tons of insecticides to help them care for and protect the winter-spring rice.

In the emulation drive to score achievements in honor of the Sixth National Party Congress, the water conservancy sector of Son La Province completed 5 projects and 24 details of projects named "Projects to Greet the Party Congress." At present, the sector is launching a year-end express emulation drive to prepare for the implementation of the 1987 State Plan in accordance with the spirit of the resolution of the Sixth National Party Congress.

According to a report by Comrade (Nguyen Quoc Van), as of 13 December 1986, the Thang Long cigarette factory in Hanoi had fulfilled the 1986 plan, achieving the target of producing 80 million packs of cigarettes for export. In 1986, the factory paid attention to improving the quality of its products by consolidating production chains and applying many technical measures to raise the standards of raw materials. Owing to these efforts, the factory has successfully restored the quality of the cigarettes produced under the name brand Sapa and has steadily maintained the high standard of this product throughout the year. The cigarettes of the Dien Bien name brand, with or without filter, and the (VSA) export brand also met required quality standards. The filter cigarette of the Hanoi name brand, both in hard and soft package, a product turned out in honor of the Sixth National Party Congress, are being bought in increasing amounts by local consumers and foreign visitors with foreign currency.

To greet the success of the Sixth National Party Congress, cadres and workers of the Thang Long cigarette factory have launched an emulation drive, resolved to produce from now until the end of 1986 15 million packs of cigarettes in excess of the quota, including 3 million packs for export.

Comrade (Kim Binh) of the Thanh Hoa provincial radio broadcasting station has sent us a message reporting that, during a 60-day emulation drive to score achievements in honor of the party, the Thanh Hoa electric engineering plant has successfully manufactured many new products such as 16-kilowatt electric motors, turbine engines for 15-kilowatt hydroelectric power stations, and small hydroelectric power generators for home use in mountainous regions. During the fourth quarter, the plant introduced a new product: a third-generation ceiling fan with blades measuring 75 cm in length.

Also in Thanh Hoa, having fulfilled the 1986 State Plan, the Nam Phat phosphate plant has initiated a campaign to record achievements in honor of the party, shipping out more than 4,100 metric tons of phosphate to support agricultural production. The plant has registered to produce an additional 200 metric tons of fertilizer and 500 metric tons of phosphate. Meanwhile, the Lam Son paper mill has reported that it has fulfilled its production plan 15 days ahead of schedule, exceeding the planned output value by 7 percent and the production target of various paper products by 6 percent.

Comrade (Le Xuan Khoa) of Geological Group 909 has reported that after over-fulfilling the task of coal prospecting for 1986, the group has accepted the duty of drilling another 500 meters to greet the fine success of the Sixth National Party Congress. At the same time, it has concentrated its prospecting and drilling forces on urgently blazing trails to mountainous areas so as to begin the task of drilling 1,012 meters planned for the first quarter of 1987 in early January.

/8309

CSO: 4200/198

DEMOCRATIC PARTY WELCOMES CPV CONGRESS SUCCESS

BK291024 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Text] On 22 December, the Central Committee and the Hanoi Municipal Executive Committee of the Vietnam Democratic Party held a meeting to welcome the fine success of the Sixth National Congress of the CPV.

In his report, Comrade Nghiem Xuan Yem, general secretary of the Vietnam Democratic Party, pointed out the success and spirit of renovation of the congress in assessing the situation and determining the orientations and tasks for the 1987-90 period and the responsibility and confidence of the Vietnam Democratic Party toward the CPV.

He also called on the cadres and members of the Vietnam Democratic Party to carry out satisfactorily all tasks in the immediate future which involve successfully launching a drive to study the Sixth CPV Congress resolutions, extensively disseminating propaganda on the success of the congress, actively responding to and implementing the 1987 State Plan and the 1986-90 5-Year Plan, enthusiastically participating in work related to army rear service, and remaining vigilant against all psychological warfare allegations.

The meeting adopted a letter of determination to be sent to the CPV Central Committee, expressing solidarity and single-mindedness with and complete confidence in the leadership of the new Central Committee elected recently by the Sixth CPV Congress.

/8309

CSO: 4209/198

BRIEFS

WOMEN'S UNION MEETING—On 14 December, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Women's Union [VMU] held a get-together of the women delegates who came to Hanoi to attend the Sixth National Party Congress. Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the party Central Committee and president of the VMU, warmly greeted the outstanding representatives of all strata of Vietnamese women in the fields of national construction and defense. She solicitously inquired of the delegates and reminded them to bring into play their sense of collective mastery so as to make active contributions to the success of the party congress. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Dec 86] /8309

BA DINH REVOLT 100TH ANNIVERSARY—Hanoi VNA Dec 29—Celebrations of the centenary of the Ba Dinh armed uprising against French domination have been held in Thanh Hoa Province, about 100 miles south of Hanoi. One hundred years ago, an armed insurrection led by Phan Binh and Dinh Cong Trang and some other patriotic personalities strongly developed in a large area in Thanh Hoa Province, causing heavy losses to the French colonialists and the reactionary Nguyen dynasty. Although it ended in failure and many insurgents were brutally murdered, the uprising helped arouse a seething anti-French movement for national salvation in Vietnam in late 19th century. More than 60 scientific papers were presented at a seminar marking this historical event. They dealt with the characters and development of the Ba Dinh uprising, the patriotic movement in general and the Ba Dinh insurrection in particular in Vietnam in late 19th century, and the significance and historic role of these events. A number of research projects and historical relics relating to the Ba Dinh uprising were also exhibited on this occasion. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1537 GMT 29 Dec 86] /8309

CSO: 4200/239

ECONOMIC, EMPLOYMENT HARDSHIP IN HANOI DESCRIBED

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 8 Dec 86 pp 143-146

[Unattributed article: "Everyone Finds His Own Way"]

[Text] The square in front of the Indira Gandhi Park is filled with the beat of percussion instruments and shrill guitar chords. Where in daytime an incessant stream of bicyclists crosses the road, during the night hours hundreds of young Vietnamese listen to the sounds of Western rock music.

Under a super-dimensional portrait of their political teacher Ho Chi Minh, the listeners follow the pop festival in almost reverent silence. Restlessness occurs only when a traditional folklore ensemble enters the stage between "Hanoi Rock" and the "Red Group." Provocative giggles ensure a very short appearance by the folklore musicians.

The Western-style rock concert in the city center of Hanoi was unusual for this metropolis of unspoiled revolutionary spirit, in which the fighting spirit has always been valued more highly than culture. Until a short time ago, European diplomats would at best have considered such a spectacle possible in Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon. Even 11 years after the expulsion of U.S. troops, capitalist customs and vices are still thriving there.

But Western influences—such as popular music—are now, before the 6th Party Congress of Vietnamese communists, also noticeable in the Spartan daily life of Hanoi. At midnight, U.S. pop music fills the sidestreets, and in Lenin Park, bushes and shrubs turn into public love nests by the dozen.

Meanwhile, there is a brisk trade in the streets for British cigarettes, Japanese pocket calculators and American chewing gum; it is almost as intensive as in the sinful South. At most, only the range of available goods differentiates Saigon from the capital.

Eleven years after the reunification of Vietnam under communist rule, there is support among the political leadership for an opening to the West—in order to break through the political isolation of the Western industrial countries in particular, but also because of pressing economic need.

Capitalist loans, especially in economic policy, more room for private initiatives, and performance incentives appear indispensable if the Vietnam government wants to lastingly ease the economic misery of this nation of 60 million people.

Immediately after the end of the war, the party leadership had promised "to satisfy the people's demand for ventilators, watches, radios, television sets and sewing machines." Today, a wide range of watches and radios exists in Hanoi only in "dollar stores" or on the black market. And according to official admission, a mere 15 percent of the country's households (figuring 100 watchers per television set) are reached by TV.

The city of Hanoi resembles an ailing, exhausted colonial town. Once-attractive buildings of the French colonial masters are quietly rotting away, scantily protected against wind and rain by bamboo mats or tar paper.

In the opinion of German experts, the country's economy suffers from a "strikingly poor infrastructure," especially in energy supply, transportation and construction—with a capacity use of 50 percent at best. Machinery and installations are obsolete or in urgent need of repair.

True, agriculture meanwhile manages to secure the basic nutrition of the population, which grows by 2.7 percent annually and will reach 90 million by the turn of the millenium. But the needed production increase is hampered by a lack of fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipment. Because of lacking transportation and storage facilities, a high percentage of the harvests are regularly lost in inclement weather.

There is plenty of fish, but the general populace sees little of it. An East European ambassador enthuses, "when you get to the seaside, you'll be overwhelmed by the supply." But because of lacking refrigeration and transport facilities, fresh fish does not reach the country's interior.

Trucks and buses appear to be of the German postwar period. Some of the rusty, rattling vehicles are without windows, others are without engine hoods.

Average earnings of a worker in Hanoi during recent years rose almost six-fold to 350 or 400 dongs per month, but prices climbed at least as rapidly. Five years ago, a kilogram of rice from the state allocation could be had in the capital for 0.38 dong; today it costs 6 dongs.

Neither a currency reform last year, nor the reintroduction of state rations for important basic foodstuffs managed to put brakes on inflation. The official dollar exchange rate for the Vietnamese dong is 1 to 15. But there is only a black market exchange—of up to 1 to 400.

During the last 10 years, the hardest currency has been "555," a British cigarette brand. On the capital's free market, one pack may fetch up to 300 dongs.

Every family in Hanoi receives basic foodstuffs at a preferential price: 8 kg rice for non-workers and 21 kg rice for miners per person and month, between 500 and 1500 grams of meat per family, as well as fish sauce, sugar, petroleum and cloth. Rice and a bunch of water spinach, about 400 grams of it, are the current ration for one meal for an entire family.

If this is not sufficient, one has to go to the free market of private traders. There, rice at 24 dong costs four times as much as the state ration. Meat is hardly affordable, and bread at 90 dong for a 500-gram loaf is a "true luxury item."

Plastic sandals of the simplest make, the preferred footwear in Hanoi, cost 200 dong, half a month's salary. Briefcases cost around 250 dong, better ones about 550 dong. Parents can buy synthetic baby sweaters in the local department store for 250 dong; somewhat heavier ones already cost 500. Bicycles, the uncontested means of transportation on Hanoi streets and roads, can be had in shops for 10,400 dong and up--a fortune.

In order to be half-way able to satisfy his needs, every Vietnamese in Hanoi if at all possible looks for a second job in addition to his official work. Through an ingenious system of buying and reselling, business deals with packages from friends abroad, and sometimes lucrative occasional business transactions such as prostitution, strictly taboo, a private market is created with partially sumptuous supplies.

Hanoi's markets offer fruit and vegetables as well as high-quality batteries, Swiss watches and canned beer. "Everyone finds his own way," complains a party functionary about the business activity of her compatriots, which sometimes comes close to the edge of legality.

In the harbor of Haiphong, occasionally liquor and champagne are stolen from diplomatic shipments ("to the pain threshold," as one Western chief of mission puts it) and are then offered for sale on the market.

Hundreds of unemployed try to hire themselves out in the streets of Hanoi with the simplest means--as riksha drivers, if they have the starting capital, or with an air pump or repair kit as a mobile bicycle service.

Business is sometimes so brisk on the gray market that the trade union paper LAO DONG already complained that workers were quitting their jobs in order to turn to more lucrative side activities.

But the ingenuity and skill of the Vietnamese art of survival have an unfortunate consequence for the country's economy. State production and commerce suffer from paralyzing listlessness, while the private market enjoys a constantly high business cycle.

In the state trade shop for traditional lacquer work, for example, the customer often has difficulty to even be waited on. It is very different in the shop around the corner, which was granted free room for private sales and practically woos the visitor.

The situation is similar in agriculture, where every farmer has 5 percent of his arable land for his own private use and can, therefore, cultivate it for the free market.

The result: according to a diplomat, the fields sometimes look as if they were traversed "in the middle by an aisle of vegetation."

There are good prospects for a modest amount of private prosperity especially in agriculture, in which 70 percent of the population are employed.

Some farmers earn more than they can spend on the small luxury of a bicycle, a radio, or a new adobe hut. "Each one is a king in his own region," an annoyed state official of the Foreign Office declares openly.

State employees in particular, party members in their large majority, often cannot afford to have a second job, be it for lack of time, ideological conviction, or political pressure. For example, a woman diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (married to a university professor, one child) takes home about 1,200 dongs per month, has privileges in schooling, in the allocation of a newly constructed apartment (24 square meters, a shower), hopes for travels abroad, and is a little envious.

Inadequacies and absurdities in the Vietnamese economy lead to sometimes abstruse consequences in the training of young people. In recent years, thousands of them were trained in the GDR or other "fraternal countries" as mathematicians, computer experts, engineers or skilled workers.

Back home in Vietnam they cannot find work or have to be satisfied with the simplest jobs. A mathematician sweeps the embassy grounds, a petroleum expert works as a travel guide, engineers and female technicians hire out as waitresses or interpreters. Nguem Luan Giang, trained in the GDR as a mathematician, only shrugs his shoulders when asked about his job. Then, hesitantly, answers, "sometimes as extra help in a knitting factory."

9917

CSO: 4620/6

VNA ARTICLE OUTLINES FOOD TARGETS FOR 1990

OW251817 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 25--Can Vietnam produce 23-24 million tons of starch food (in rice and paddy equivalents) by the year 1990, that is 5-6 million tons more than in the peak year of 1985?

"This target can be within reach, provided a number of decisive conditions be created and intensive efforts made to boost agricultural production," wrote Professor Dr. Vu Tuyen Hoang in an exclusive article for the Vietnamese language weekly news bulletin TUAN TIN TUC published by VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY. Highlights of Prof. Hoang's analysis:

1. Rice has since long been Vietnam's number one staple food. Next comes a series of subsidiary food crops: maize, sweet potato, cassava, potato, and other tuberous crops and beans. Thanks to warm weather, southern provinces can grow three rice crops a year and the cropping seasons can begin at any time. In northern provinces, two rice crops are feasible and the cropping seasons are continually affected by climatic conditions, including frequent rain, storms and floods.
2. Food production is being developed with traditional methods coupled with big investment. Part of the arable land is put under intensive farming, the rest under extensive cultivation. Some areas such as the Red River Delta have built a comprehensive system of irrigation works. Others have not. Some aspects of farming, however, are out-dated: use of extensive farming, old rice varieties and rudimentary means of production.
3. Results obtained over the past period give grounds to hopes for rice farming in the years ahead. Before 1975, rice yield averaged about two tons per hectare. In 1976 the highest yield was 2.233 tons per hectare, and in the 1976-80 period the average yield was 2.022 tons per hectare. In southern provinces, rice-growing land expanded from 2.8 million hectares in 1973 to about 3.3 million hectares in 1980.

From 1981 to 1984, the wide application of scientific and technological advances and of the product-based contractual quota system and the increase of investment in food production brought about a notable increase of rice yield and income. Intensive farming helped the Mekong River Delta, northern and south central provinces, though affected by floods and storms in 1984, increase their rice output by nearly four million tons compared with 1980.

In 1985, Vietnam obtained 18.2 million tons of food-grain and paddy equivalents, more than double compared with half a century ago. In spite of inadequate supply of fertilizer, shortage of chemical materials and insecticide, rice yield and output have notably increased in recent years.

4. The target of 23-24 million tons of starch food by the year 1990 is attainable if the following conditions are materialized

--Application of appropriate policies concerning agricultural production, particularly food production, and a more effective use of scientific and technological advances.

--Growing of wet rice on more than six million hectares and subsidiary food crops on 1.5 million hectares.

--Rational and timely supply of fertilizer and insecticide.

--Creation of a system of food crops suited to the ecological structure on the basis of improving existing irrigation works and building more small and medium size irrigation projects. Selection and importation of new strains resistant to drought, flood, salinity, acidity and aluminousness.

5. Vietnam already has many new rice varieties with a high degree of resistance to crop pests and climatic vagaries. Thanks to the use of new strains, in the 1984-85 winter-spring, 11 northern provinces obtained from five to 7.8 tons per hectare on average on 100,000 ha, and seven-8.4 tons per hectare on tens of thousands of hectares.

The Spring-2 rice strain even gave nine-11 tons per hectare. Alternation of rice and subsidiary food crops and multiplication of crops have been practiced throughout the country. New maize and sweet potato strains have been grown in most parts of the country.

6. By 1990, 2.5 million hectares of rice land will give 4.3 tons per hectare and the rest 2.6 tons per hectare. Thus, total output will reach 20 million tons of paddy, not counting subsidiary food crops.

If the area under subsidiary food crops is enlarged to over 1.5 million hectares we will have 500,000 hectares of maize with an average yield of 1.7-1.8 tons per hectare, 400,000 hectares of sweet potato and cassava, and 100,000 hectares of potato with a yield of about one ton per hectare.

Thus the total output of subsidiary food crops in paddy equivalent would be 3.5 million tons.

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MINISTRIES DISCUSS 1986-1987 GRAIN, FOOD PLAN

OW240259 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] The Ministries of Agriculture, Water Conservancy, and Electricity; the Meteorological and Hydrological General Department; and various services recently held a conference to discuss measures for the immediate future to start implementation of the grain and food program; expand joint operations in support of various production installations; boost agricultural production; and properly plant the 1986-87 winter-spring rice. Along with increasing investments in grain production in the Mekong Delta, sectors should concentrate on creating conditions for various areas to achieve a grain-food balance and to maintain grain and food reserves.

Northern provinces from Binh Tri Thien northward will strive to plant 1,078,000 hectares of rice, including 934,500 hectares of rice fields to be irrigated by electric pumps. Thus, to ensure material and technical conditions and mainly sufficient water for areas equipped with electric pumps is one of the primary measures to achieve intensive cultivation of industrial crops and fulfill and overfulfill the grain and food plan norms for 1986-87.

The agricultural department should guide localities in arranging seed patterns on schedule and determining the dry and wet land acreages and the amount of water and electricity to be needed. The agro-technical equipment general department should guide agricultural machine stations in repairing tractors and mobilizing people to prepare soil on schedule.

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BRIEFS

HAU GIANG PRODUCTION--Hanoi VNA Dec 28--The Mekong River Delta Province of Hau Giang with 2.5 million inhabitants in 1985 was the top rice producer in the country, producing 1.5 million tons out of the total of 18.2 million tons. This represents an increase of more than half a million tons since 1980. That is mainly owing to the switch to double-cropping on most of the rice acreage instead of single-cropping before the liberation of South Vietnam in 1975. In some places, one subsidiary food crop has been added to the two rice crops. For the first time, Hau Giang grew 120,000 ha with high-yielding autumn rice which accounted for 56.38 percent of the province's total rice output. In the past five years, the local population moved over 95 million cubic meters of earth to build irrigation projects, built 550 km of river and sea dykes and dug 1.54 km of canals. Some 250,000 ha were reclaimed from waste lands. [Excerpt] [Hanoi VNA in English 0706 GMT 28 Dec 86 OW] /8309

FLOOD LOSSES--Hanoi VNA Dec 25--Unprecedented floods on Dec. 3-4 hit vast areas in the southern part of central Vietnam, causing substantial losses in lives and property, says a late communique of the central flood and storm prevention committee. The floods caused submersion in most districts of Nghia Binh, Phu Khanh, Quang Nam Da Nang, Thuan Hai and Gialai-Kontum Provinces, claiming at least 165 lives, the communique says. Scores of others were injured, hundreds of houses, classrooms, creches and kindergartens and store houses were washed away or demolished, tens of thousands of hectares under rice or subsidiary food crops destroyed. Substantial damage was also inflicted on the roads, dykes and irrigation works. Immediately after the flood subsided, the Council of Ministers convened a conference to discuss measures to overcome the aftermath. Seeds, building materials, food and other necessities have been rushed to the stricken areas. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 25 Dec 86] /8309

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